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The Palice of Honour.

By

Gawyn Douglas,

Bishop of Dunkeld.

Reprinted at Edinburgh:
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TO

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

OF ABBOTSFORD,

AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF

The Bannatyne Club,

THIS EDITION OF THE

PALICE OF HONOUR,

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

AND

PRESENTED

BY

JOHN GARDINER KINNEAR.

JANUARY,
M.DCCC.XXVII.

THE PALICE OF HONOUR, the earliest of the original works of Gawin Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld, was composed about the year 1501, the twenty-seventh of the Author's life, and twelve years before his translation of Virgil's Æneis, 'into Scottish Meter,' was completed.[1]

The present edition of this Poem is a fac-simile of that printed at Edinburgh by John Ros, for Henry Charteris, in 1579—the rarity of which is so great, that I believe it would be difficult to find any other copies than those preserved in the Libraries of the University of Edinburgh, and of the Faculty of Advocates; the former of which was presented to his *Alma Mater*, by William Drummond of Hawthornden, in 1626.

Of the earlier edition, printed at London by William Copland, about the year 1553, a fac-simile of the title is given on the next leaf, and is followed by a specification of the various readings. At the Roxburghe sale, a copy

---

[1] "Completit was this werk Virgilliane
"Apoun the feist of Marye Magdalane:
"Fra Christis birth the date wha list to here,
"ANE THOUSAND FYVE HUNDRETH AND THRETTENE ZERE."
GAWIN DOUGLAS.

of this edition, which is also extremely rare, brought the sum of twenty guineas.

These, which are both in quarto, are the only editions which have yet been discovered of this Poem, although there appear to have been other and earlier impressions; for the publisher of the Edinburgh edition, in 1579, states, that "the divers impressiones befoir imprentid "of this notabill werk have bene altogidder faultie and "corupt, not onlie that quhilk has bene imprentid at "London, but also the copyis set furth of auld amangis "our selfis."

The Palice of Honour will be found reprinted in Pinkerton's Scotish Poems; and in the "Select Works of Gawin Douglas," printed at Perth in 1787; to the latter of which a Life of the Author is annexed by the Rev. James Scott. An Account of the Life and Writings of Bishop Douglas, has been also given by Bishop Sage, by Dr George Mackenzie, and Dr David Irving.

I am happy to have this opportunity of returning my thanks to James Chalmers, Esq., for the loan of a very fine copy of Copland's edition of the Palice of Honour, from the library of his late uncle, George Chalmers, Esq.

THE PALIS OF Honoure Compeled by Gawyne douglas Byſſhope of Dunkyll.

¶Imprinted at London in fleetſtreet, at the ſygne of the Rose gariand by wyllyam Copland.

¶ God ſaue Queene Mary.

COLLATION

OF THE EARLIER EDITIONS OF

THE PALICE OF HONOUR.

The London edition of The Palis of Honour is printed uniformly with the Translation of Virgil's Æneis, by Bishop Douglas, which has the following title, within the same ornamental border, of which a fac-simile is given on the foregoing leaf.

"The xiii. Bukes of Eneados o the famose Poete Virgill, Translatet out of Latyne verses into Scottish metir, bi the Reuerend Father in God, Mayster Gawin Douglas Bishop of Dunkel, & vnkil to the Erle of Angus. Euery buke hauing hys perticular Prologe. Imprinted at Londō 1553." 4to.

In collating the two early editions of the Palace of Honour, the following is an enumeration of the principal variations; the words of the present text being first quoted, followed by the corresponding words of the London edition.

The Prologue. Stanza I, line 3. the—be. II. 6. fluor maist fragrant—flewour maist fragrant. III. 3. Abone—Aboue. 7. Echo—eccon. V. 3. reserue—preserue. VII. 3. Sol—Soyl; stone—stunt. XI. 9. pulsis—puncys. XII. 2. desie—dasyt; vary—veray. XIII. 3. heiring—hetis. XIV. 4. sweuen— slewen. 9. Visioun—auision. Finis Prologi—Finis.

Page 1, line 3. bad nystie—bad nystee. 4. thy—thyn. 6. rymis—ranys. 8. thir—their. 18. swappis—skauppis.

Page 2, line 10. dark as Rock—dyrk as royk.

Page 3, line 5. lowis—louys. 10. surelie zis—suythly zys. 11. ze—za. 14. Uer—veyr. 17. my—myn. 21. affrayit—afferyt.

Page 4, line 1. faitis—feitis; forwayit—foruayt. 8. all—four.

Page 5, line 3. subtell menis—suttell menys. 5. zee—za. 10. Circes—Circis. 19. Pithagoras—Picthagoras. 21. Sidrach—Sidrag. 29. veyage—viage.

Page 6, line 11. into—in tyll. 21. ouirthort—ouerwhort. 26. haue bene —bene. 29. to—tyll.

Page 7, line 10. Imagining feill syse—Imagynand feil lyse. 23. or—and of. 29. befoir—tofore.

Page 8, line 21. Effyom—Effygyn. 25. skatterit—skattryt. 26. batterit—battryt. 28. swatterit—swattryt. 29. tatterit—tattryt.

Page 9, line 6. litargie—letergy. 9. North eist—norhest. 11. sounding —soundis. 22. Inwith—Inoth. 29. Inwith—Inoth.

Page 10, line 6. befoir—tofore; or—and. 10. Ane—A.

Page 11, line 5. dynnit—dymmit. 7. lichtlie—lychily. 11. grene—greni. 13. Lymnaris—lymnuris. 14. Ihote—I hote. 27. claith—plate. 28. thir—thair.

Page 12, line 7. ordours—ordour.

Page 13, line 1. or—nor. 6. wonder—wondryt; fast in—in. 20. zit—yf. 29. SEQUE, ALTERA—Sesque altra.

Page 14, line 2. soung—songin. 5. countering—conturyng. 15. Saul—Kyng Saul. 23. greik—gekgo.

Page 15, line 2. Joint—Juynt. 9. ouirbrouderit—or brounuert. 15. veluot—veluos. 24. luifsum—lusum.

Page 16, line 22. France—Fare. 27. Deianira—Dyonera.

Page 17, line 1. Tristram—Trastram. 6. miak—make. 8. bound with hart—boynd with fyrm hart.

Page 18, line 1. Inuolupit in syte—nu oluit in dispyte. 5. fact—fait. 7. Ingraue—In graue. 9. dois—doith. 26. sang—sayng. 30. committand —conmittand.

Page 19, line 1. & greit—in greif. 6. girnand—grinand. 23. accusen—accusyng.

Page 20, line 20. pleis it—plesyt. 26. and aucht—aucht.

Page 21, line 18. disturbis—distrublys. 23. behest—beheft.

Page 22, line 7. die—be. 12. mischaip—myssape. 22. how—quhome. 26. Nabuchodonosor—Nabugodonosore.

Page 23, line 9. All haillelie—Alhalely. 13. To—Lo. 16. that quhilk—quhilk that. 20. Intercessioun—Intercion. 27. luik—lusty.

Page 24, line 2. Scripture—Scipture. 18. *This line is omitted in the Edinburgh edition,* 1579.

Page 25, line 1. thay Ladyis—thair layis. 2. na—na way. 9. greit—gastly. 10. that—the; new—now. 11. thair—the. 15. knawledge—knawlagis. 17 Court—rout; or meit—our mate. 20. Poet—polit; singand—sang. 25. folk—folkis. 27. of—all of.

Page 26, line 7. Mother of the Musis—the morthyr of musis. 11. Euerilk oulk day,—Euterpe eik quhilk. 14. Chronikill dois Imprent—cronikillis doith impren. 20. sing, daunce,—sing, play, daunce. 24. sister with croun—and sister schene. 29. Hir—The.

Page 27, line 1. Nobill—nobillis. 8. fair—Phanee. 14. befoir—afore. 16. befoir—tofore. 17. spreit—brest. 22. Greik—grew. 26. Dictes—Ditis. 27. and Persius—Persius.

Page 28, line 1. Cato—Caton. 2. Gaulteir—Galterus. 7. the Vale—Vale. 10. Horace—Orace. 11. Clerk—clerkis. 12. Bocchas—Bocace. 14. ar—is. 15. saw I thair—thare I saw. 16. Geffray—Goffryd. 22. culd—couth. 30. my—the.

Page 29, line 1. thir samin—sammyn thir. 6. not—as. 9. quhat was caus of hir thair—wes the cause thair of hir. 10. zone bysning schew—that bysning schrew. 13. had—hes. 15. laitlie—laithly; and subtell—subtelle. 16. and—on. 17. velanie—walloway. 18. our—my. 21. Rebald Rennigait—rebell renygate. 26. To sic as he to mak conter pleid—All out than wes his sclander or sich plede. 27. honour chekmait—renown chak mate. 28. sa wide zour fame—zour fame so wyd.

Page 30, line 4. efter—oft. 5. friwoll—frewel. 6. his—this. 9. befoir—afore. 13. befoir—afore. 14. strait—starte. 16. not be—be not. 22. Ane vennome is rather and—No woman is, rather. 28. haue—serue.

Page 31, line 3. say—sa. 12. releuit—releschit. 18. freindschip—freudschip. 20. quhilk—quhilkis. 23. alswyith—als swyth. 25. deliuerit—preseruit. 26. Releuit—Releschit.

Page 32, line 2. but dispair—lait and air. 4. In lestand blis, to remane and repair—Quhair thou in ioy and plesour may repair. 6. pietie disseuerit—peace, dissouerit. 9. or—and. 11. of—with. 12. delicait—dilligat. 14. thow—now. 17. perfite—purifyit. 20. guerdoun—gard. 23. *This line is omitted in the Edinburgh edition,* 1579. 27. companioun—campion.

Page 33, line 2. ane Instant—Instant 13. reuerence—reuence. 19. wend—passe.

Page 34, line 8. heicht—heich. 9. into Egypt—in till Egypt; into Italie.—in Italie. 11. hie Montanes—Montanes; of Germanie—of all Germanie. 21. Tinolus—Tmolus.

Page 35, line 27. well—strand.

Page 36, line 6. not—never. 13. stanerie—sterny.

Page 37, line 5. Royall—rial. 10. Ladyis—musis. 11. deissis—deace. 14. Royall—ryall. 25. fatis—fetis. 29. schew—tald.

Page 39, line 18. sawin—sammyn. 20. Damascene—Damastene. 29. this —that.

Page 40, line 27. remembrance—rememorance.

Page 41, line 20. The ascence—Ascens.

Page 42, line 3. I—we. 7. how—hol. 8. bulling—bulnyng. 28. drownit—drynt; Loch—loth.

Page 43, line 15. place—palyce. 24. bairdin—boldyn. 26. schipis—schip. 28. swa—the. 29. did—to.

Page 44, line 5. Fir tre—firre. 6. a Takill—Takill. 8. drownit, part —drownit and part. 12. drownit—drint. 16. seis—seyst.

Page 45, line 6. thow sall—salt thou. 12. far—sa far. 14. on—in. 18. alkin—euery. 20. alkin—alkynde. 27. sair—fare.

Page 46, line 3. Royall—riall. 5. Thanis—fanys. 11. Jalme—Jalmys. 14. Befoir—Tofore. 17. The—That. 22. vaikis—wakis.

Page 47, line 1. beildit—beild; Royall—riall. 9. now thow seis—thow seyst. 13. ane Throne—a trone. 18. Stude emeraut stages twelf, grene precious greis—Twelf amarant stagis stude, twelf grene precious greis. 20. Wp standand—Sustenttand; beforne—aforne. 27. vtter—vthir. 29. woundit —wound.

Page 48, line 2. royall—riall. 3. and precious—precious. 8. specktakill—quent spectakill. 10. mony—ful mony. 14. creatiounis—creation. 22. Ten—Twelf; thair—tair. 24. drownit—drynt.

Page 49, line 1. Of—In. 11. Anoyntit—Anoynt. 16. michtie—douchty. 19. a stound—astond. 21. Banayas—Bananyas.

Page 50, line 1. helis—hely. 11. Esras—Esdras. 24. wombe—wame. 28. this—the.

Page 51, line 1. tyranlie he Jowrie all—tyrand lyk all Jowrye he. 2. ane Knichtlie—Knichtlie. 4. brocht—broh. 11. Destroyit was—Wes distroyit. 19. hidder—thidder. 24. Pirithous—Pyrotheus; sponsage—spousage.

Page 52, line 3. Royall—rial. 6. thair—that. 7. Ypsiphile—Ysiphile. 8. at—to. 17. Nauie—nauyn. 28. Quhill—Quhilk.

Page 53, line 15. Micht—mych. 25. greit—huge. 27. landis—land. 28. Turnus—Tarnus.

Page 54, line 11. Betwene—Atwene. 14. Betwene thir—Atwene thair. 20. Marcus Curtius—Quincyus. 21. the fyrie—fyrie.

Page 55, line 2. sine to—to; the—all the. 7. betwene—atwine. 20. Newand—Mewand. *The very curious Stanza beginning,* I saw Raf Coilzear, *is omitted in the London Edition by Copland.*

Page 56, line 7. Benytas—bonitas. 11. Nutemug—Nutmog. 13. Benytas—Bonytas. 26. Scho—I.

Page 57, line 3. all—ay. 6. suddanelie—suddadly. 15. scho—tho. 17. quod—sayd.

Page 58, line 6. to—in to. 10. birnand—brynnand. 11. That Garitour tho—the garatour; vnto—tho to. 12. that—the. 16. minde is—mindis. 22. dois serue—disseruys. 23. the—is the.

Page 59, line 7. to greif—grief. 11. fals—a fals. 14. listin commit—lyst committing.

Page 60, line 6. was—of. 15. twane—wane. 17. Ingraue—ingarf. 21. Driada—Dorida. 27. Epistillis—episciclis. 28. portrait—proturyt. 29. motiounis—montionis.

Page 61, line 1. Eclipsis—Eclipse. 2. I, and mony—I mony. 3. all lustie—ll luasty. 9. and—ann. 26. Swa—Fra. 28. surelie as me—soithla as my.

Page 62, line 3. pachit—paithit. 6. I—a. 10. Importurait—Iuporturat. 11. hie—sle. 21. not—ne.

Page 63, line 3. Royall—Rial. 7. atanis atonys. 8. smote—smate. 9. blancht—blaucht. 14. Upheld—Held vp. 17. that—my. 22. was—is. 24. sa—a sa. 25. Unto—On to.

Page 64, line 1. worthin—wordyn. 2. Lang eir me thocht y^n—Langere (me thocht) how. 9. mad—malt. 10. na mair (quod scho)—(quod scho) na mare. 12. surelie—suythly. 16. Posterne—postrum. 17. passage—passagis. 18. that—the. 22. Uerteouslie—Victoriusly. 24. fundin—fuddyn; mane—name. 28. King—ryng. 29. gouerning—honoring.

Page 65, line 1. Quhilk is—Quhilkis. 8. warldis—warldly. 20. Fra thay be gane, let—Frathay began, late. 28. can—ma.

Page 66, line 2. puissand—pyssand. 7. lestand honour—honour lestand. 22. Hippolita—Ypolytha. 23. Penthessilea, Medea, Zenobia—Pantyssale, Medus, Cenobia.

Page 68, line 6. flouris—colouris. 8. and—for. 13. Inueronit—Inuenoryt. 18. vs—we. 22. passage—passagis.

Page 69, line 9. swemit—swounyt. 13. Earth—garth. 27. of—hf.

Page 70, line 2. kind—kend. 3. quhome—quhan. 5. meikill—myche; deuise—deuise, &c. 26. The Author, &c.—The Auctor direkit his buke to the rycht nobill Prynce, James the ferd Kyng of Scottis.

Page 71, line 21. the—tha. 24. the—tha. 26. the—tha. 27. the—tha, &c. *After* Finis (*on Sign K* 4.) *is this Colophon*

¶Imprinted at London in Fletestrete at the sygne of the Rose garland, by William Coplande.

The London edition by Copland, contains various marginal notes, which are not found in the Edinburgh edition of this poem. In order the more readily to ascertain the particular verses to which the notes refer, the page and the first words of the Stanza are here given, in Italic letters.

Page 2. *And not but caus.* A discription of the inconstance of fortune. 3. *Of Ladyis fair.* The quen of Sapyence wyth hyr court. 4. *And as the rout.* Craftye synone and false Architefel. 5. *Quhilks groundit ar.* Wyse and lerned men. 6. *Richt sa.* Architefel confessis hys owne craftenes, deceyt, and abused wit. 6. *First into Troy.* Sinons craftines. 7. *Thus wretchitlie,* line 8. Feare. 10. *Sa dulce.* A sorowful harte can not be mery. 10. *And murnand thus,* line 4. Heuinlye harmonye. 11. *Proceidand furth.* Godly apparell. 12. *Amid the chair.* Venus hyr court. 13. *I wonder sair,* line 5. Blynd Cupyd. 13. *Accompanyit.* Musyke. 15. *Thair riche,* line 9. Mars. 16. *Thair was.* Louers. 17. *Constranit hart.* A ballet of inconstant loue. 19. *Enthronit sat.* The Auctor accused. 20. *He demandit.* Answer. 20. *Inclynand law.* Appellationem. 21. *I zow beseik,* line 7. A thretnyng. 23. *To thus.* Consolation. 24. *With lawreir.* Poetis. 26. *And nixt her sine.* The nyne muses. 27. *The suddane,* line 8. Homer. 27. *Thair was the greit.* Virgil & other latin poetis. 28. *Sa greit ane preis.* Chauser & other Englyshe and Scottishe Poetis. 29. *Sister* (*said scho.*) Venus complaint. 30. *I will* (*said scho.*) Mercy becumys all men & specily gentyl-wemen. 31. *Unwemmit wit.* A ballat for Venus plesour. 34. *Throw countreis seir.* The auctours vyage. 37. *Swa finallie.* The gates. 37. *With Lawrere.* Valiant knightis. 39. *Uprais.* Poetis. 41. *Ze musis.* Inuocation. 42. *To me thou art.* Evyl people punyshet. 44. *Tho at.* Faythles peopill. 45. *Still in the sessoun.* The discription of the palace. 47. *Amid ane Throne,* line 9. Venus mirrour. 48. *Abraham.* A lang catathaloge of nobyl men and wemen both of scriptur & gentyll stories. 49. *Of Salomon.* Salomon. 51. *The faithful.* Faythfull & constent women. 54. *Rome saw I,* line 8. Chast Lucretia. 54. *The Punik,* line 6. The constancye of Marcus Regulus. 56. *The Nigromansie.* Nigramansye. 57. *Tuitchand this buik.* By thys boke he menis Virgil,—line 6. The Auctorys conclution of Venus morour. 57. *Scho me conuoyit.* The Palice of honour is patent for honest vertuus men, an not for vicius fals & craftye pepyll. 58. *Fast climmand vp,* line 8. Falsehed the moder of al vice. 58. *That Garitour,* line 8. Patience. 58. *The michtie Prince.* The discription of the Prince of hie honore, wyth his Palys & Court Charity Constance Liberalite Innocens Deuotyon.

59. *His Comptrollar.* Discretion Humanite Trew relation peace temperance Humilitie discypline mercye. 59. *His Chancelair.* Conscience iustyce prudence diligens cleue lyuyng. 59. *Gude hope remanis.* Hope Piety Fortitud Veryte. 60. *Thair was the eirth,* line 5. Astronami. 65. *Behald* (*said scho.*) Al warldly glorye is bot a dreame. 65. *For vertew is a thing.* A comendation of vertue quhilk is the way to honour and not riches or hie blud. 66. *The strangest Sampsoun.* Exemplis of vertuus men & women. 67. *Quhilks be wilfull.* Vicious people punyshed Inuye Pryde Ignorance Disseyt. 67. *And Nobillis cummin.* Dissate & craftynes ar haldyn wisdome now a dayes verite & iustice is callyt simplycitye & folyshnes. 69. *Quhat throw the birdis.* The Author returnes frome his dreame to him self agane. 69. *O hie Honour.* A ballad in the commendation of honour & verteu.

The following typographical errors which occur in the Edinburgh edition, 1579, have been corrected in this reprint. Prologue page 3, line 22. rhe—*corrected to* the. Page 2, l. 22. chis—this. 3, l. 11. wisl—wis. 7, l. 28. for thy—forthy. 10, l. 21. mnrnand—murnand. 16, l. 20. Wofnll—Wofull. l. 25. Thaie—Thair. l. 29. Trastram—Tristram. 18, l. 26. lang—sang. 19, l. 3. bow—bowre. 20, l. 22. Noe—Not. 21, l. 8. Jngdement—Jugement. 24, l. 27. Aconius—Acontius. Cydiype—Cydippe. 28, l. 7. vale—Vale. 35, l. 14. Ethua—Ethna. 39, l. 15. anoyit—anoynt. 40, l. 15. snld—suld. 43, l. 4. cousaue—consaue. 44, l. 18. stace—state. 51. l. 3. The—that. l. 24. Pirichons—Pirithons. 63, l. 11. Womcnting—Womenting. 64, l. 3. grenit—greuit.

A few trivial errors, discovered since the sheets of this reprint went to press, may be here pointed out. Page 7, l. 3. haur err—for haue. 10, l. 5. breame—dreame. 11, l. 19. os—of. 15. l. 6. piteous—pieteous. 27, l. 17. aud—and.

¶ Heir beginnis

ane Treatise callit the PALICE of HONOVR, Compylit be M. GAWINE DOWGLAS Bischop of Dunkeld.

I

R

Imprentit at Edinburgh be Iohne Ros, for Henrie Charteris. Anno. 1579.

CVM PRIVILEGIO REGALI.

TO THE REIDAR.

QVHEN vve had ſene and considderit the diuers Impressiones befoir Imprentit of this Notabill werk, to haue bene altogidder faultie and corrupt: not onlie that quhilk hes bene Imprentit at London, bot also the Copyis set furth of auld amangis our selfis: We haue thocht gude to tak sum panes and trawellis to haue the samin mair commodiously and correctly set furth: to the Intent, that the beneuolent Reidar may haue the mair delyte and plesure in reiding, and the mair frute in perusing, this plesand and delectabill werk.

THE PROLOGVE.

QVHEN paill Aurora, with face lamentabill
Hir Russat Mantill borderit all with Sabill,
Lappit about the heuinly Circumstance
The tender bed and Arres honorabill
Of Flora Quene till floures amiabill.
In May I rais to do my obseruance,
And enterit in a Gardyne of plesance
With Sol depaint, as Paradice amiabill
And blisfull bewis, with blomed varyance.

¶Sa craftely Dame Flora had ouirfret
Hir heuinly bed, powderit with mony a set
Of Ruby, Topas, Perle, and Emerant.
With Balmy dew, bathit and kyndlie wet,
Quhill vapours hote richt fresche and weill ybet:
Dulce of odour, of fluour maist fragrant
The siluer droppis on Daseis distillant.
Quhilk verdour branches ouir the alars zet
With smoky sence the mystis reflectant.

¶ The fragrant flouris blomand in thair seis
Ouirspred the leuis of natures Tapestreis.
Abone the quhilk with heuinly Harmoneis
The birdis sat on twystis and on greis
Melodiously makand thair kyndlie gleis
Quhais schill noitis fordinned all the skyis.
Of repercust air the Echo cryis,
Amang the branches of the blomed treis.
And on the Laurers siluer droppis lyis.

The Prologue.

¶Quhill that I rowmed in that Paradice
Replenischit, and full of all delice
Out of the sey, Eous alift his heid.
I mene the hors quhilk drawis at deuice
The assiltrie and goldin Chair of price
Of Tytan, quhilk at morrow semis reid.
The new collour that all the nicht lay deid
Is restorit, baith foulis, flouris, and Rice
Recomfort was, throw Phebus gudlyheid.

¶ The Dasy and the Maryguld vnlappit
Quhilkis all the nicht lay with thair leuis happit
Thame to reserue fra rewmes pungitiue
The vmbrate treis that Tytan about wappit
War portrait, and on the eirth yschappit.
Be goldin bemis viuificatiue.
Quhais amene heit is maist restoratiue.
The Greshoppers amangis the vergers gnappit,
And Beis wrocht materiall for thair Hyue.

¶Richt hailsome was the sessoun of the zeir
Phebus, furth zet depured bemis cleir
Maist nutritiue till all thingis vegetant.
God Eolus of wind list nocht appeir:
Nor auld Saturne with his mortall speir.
And bad aspect contrair till euerie plant.
Neptunus nold within that Palice hant.
The beriall stremis rynning men micht heir
By bonkis grene with glancis variant.

¶ For till behald that heuinly place compleit
The purgit Air with new engendrit heit:

The Prologue.

The Sol enbroude with colour, vre, and stone:
The tender grene, the balmy droppis sweit:
Sa reioycit and comfort was my Spreit
I not was it a vision or fantone.
Amyd the buskis rowming myne alone
Within that garth of all plesance repleit
A voice I hard preclair as Phebus schone.

¶Singand ô May thow Mirrour of soles
Maternall Moneth Lady and Maistres
Till euerie thing adoun respirature.
Thyne heuinlie work and worthie craftines
The small herbis constranis till incres
O verray ground till working of nature.
Quhais hie curage and assucurit cure
Causis the eirth his frutes till expres
Diffundant grace on euerie creature.

¶Thy godly lore, cunning Incomparabill
Dantis the sauage beistis maist vnstabill
And expellis all that nature infestis.
The knoppit syonis with leuis aggreabill
For till reuert and burgione ar maid abill
Thy mirth refreschis byrdis in thair nestis.
Quhilks the to prise and nature neuer restis.
Confessand zow maist potent and louabill
Amang the brownis of the Oliue twystis.

¶In the is rute and augment of curage,
In the enforces Martis vassalage.
In the is amorous lufe and Harmonie
With Incrementis fresche in lustie age

The Prologue.

Quha that constranit ar in luifis rage
Addressand thame with obseruance airlie
Weill auchtis the till gloir and Magnifie.
And with that word I raisit my visage
Soir affrayit half in ane frenesie.

¶O Nature Quene and ô ze lustie May
(Quod I) tho, how lang sall I thus foruay?
Quhilk zow and Venus in this garth deseruis.
Recounsell me out of this greit affray:
That I may sing zow laudis day be day.
Ze that all mundane creatures preseruis.
Comfort zour man that in this fanton steruis.
With spreit arraisit and euerie wit away.
Quaiking for feir baith pulsis, vane, and neruis.

¶My fatall weird, my febill wit I wary
My desie heid quhome laik of brane gart vary
And not sustene so amiabill a soun
With ery curage febill strenthis sary
Bownand me hame and list na langer tary
Out of the air come ane impressioun.
Throw quhais licht in extasie or swoun,
Amyd the virgultis all in till a fary
As feminine so feblit fell I doun.

¶And with that gleme sa desyit was my micht
Quhill thair remanit nouther voice nor sicht.
Breith, motion, nor heiring naturall
Saw neuer man so faynt a leuand wicht.
And na ferly for ouir excelland licht.
Corruptis the wit and garris the blude awaill.

Vntill

The Prologue.

Vntill the hart that it na danger aill.
Quhen it is smorit, memberis wirkis not richt
The dreidfull terrour, swa did me assaill.

¶Zit at the last, I not how lang a space
A lytle heit appeirit in my face.
Quhilk had tofoir bene paill and voyde of blude
Tho in my sweuen I met a ferly cace.
I thocht me set within a desert place
Amyd a Forest by a hyddeous flude
With grysly fische, and schortly till conclude
I sall discryue (as God will giue me grace)
Myne Visioun in rurall termis rude.

Finis Prologi.

¶ The Palice of

HONOVR, Compylit be M.
GAWINE DOWGLAS
Bischop of Dunkeld.

¶ THE FIRST PART.

THOW barrant wit ouirset with fantasyis
Schaw now the craft ȳ in thy memoȝ lyis
Schaw now thy schame, schaw now thy badnystie
Schaw thy endite repȝuse of Rethoȝyis,
Schaw now thy beggit termis mair thã thȝyis
Schaw now thy rymis, and thine harlotrie,
Schaw now thy dull exhaust Inanitie.
Schaw furth thy cure and wȝite, thir frenesyis
Quhilks of thy sempill cunning nakit the.

¶ Wy rauist spȝeit in that desert terribill
Approchit neir that vglie flude hoȝribill
Like till Cochyte the riuer Infernall,
Wlith vile water quhilk maid a hiddious trubil
Rinnand ouir heid, blude reid and Impossibill
That it had bene a riuer naturall,
Wlith bȝayis bair, raif Rochis like to fall.
Quhairon na gers noȝ herbis wer visibill
Bot swappis bȝint with blastis boȝiall.

¶ This laithlie flude rumland as thõder routit
In quhõe the fisch zelland as eluis schoutit
Thair zelpis wilde my heiring all fordeifit

Thay grym mōstures my spreits abhorrit & doutit
Not throw the soyl, bot muskane treis sproutit
Combust, barrant, vnblomit, and vnleifit,
Auld rottin runtis quhairen na sap was leifit
Moch all waist, widderit with granis moutit
Á ganand den quhair murtherars men reifit.

¶Quhairfoir my seluin was richt sair agast,
This wildernes abhominabill and waist
(In quhome nathing was nature comfortand)
Was dark as Rock the quhilk the sey vpcast.
The quhissilling wind blew mony bitter blast.
Runtis rattillit and vneith micht I stand.
Out throw the wod I crap on fute and hand
The Riuer stank, the treis cletterit fast.
The soyl was nocht bot Marres slike and sand.

¶And not but caus my spreitis wer abaisit
All solitair in that desert arraisit.
Allace I said is nane vther remeid.
Cruell Fortoun quhy hes thow me betraisit?
Quhy hes thow thus my fatall end compassit?
Allace, allace sall I thus sone be deid
In this desert, and wait nane vther reid.
Bot be deuoirit with sum beist Rauenous.
I weip, I waill, I plene, I cry, I pleid
Inconstant warld and quheill contrarious.

¶Thy transitorie plesance quhat auaillis?
Now thair, now heir, now hie and now deuaillis
Now to, now fra, now law, now Magnifyis,
Now hait, now cald, now lauchis, now beuaillis

Now

Now seik, now haill, now werie, now not aillis,
Now gude. now euill, now weitis, and now dryis
Now thow promittis, and richt now thow denyis
Now wo, now weill, now firme, now friuolous,
Now gam, now gram, now lowis, now defyis,
Inconstant warld and quheill contrarious.

Qha quha suld haue affyance in thy blis?
Ha quha suld haue firme esperance in this?
Quhilk is allace sa freuch and variant.
Certes nane, sum hes, no wicht? surelie zis.
Than hes my self bene gyltie? ze: I wis
Thairfoir allace sall danger thus me dant?
Quhidder is becum sa sone this duillie hant?
And Aer translait in winter furious?
Thus I beuaill my faitis repugnant.
Inconstant warld and quheill contrarious.

Bydand the deid thus in my extasie
Ane dyn I hard approching fast me by.
Quhilk mouit fra the plague Septentrionall.
As heird of beistis stamping with loud cry.
Bot than God wait how affrayit was I
Traistand to be stranglit with bestiall.
Amid a stock richt priuelie I stall.
Quhair luikand out anone I did espy
Ane lustie rout of beistis rationall.

Of Ladyis fair and gudlie men arrayit
In constant weid that weill my spreitis payit
With degest mind, quhairin all wit aboundit.
Full soberlie thair Haiknayis thay affayit

Eſter the faitis auld and not forwayit.
Thair hie prudēce ſchew furth & nathing roūdit
With gude effeir quhairat the wod reſoundit?
In ſteidfaſt ordour to veſie vnaffrayit.
Thay rydīng furth with ſtabilnes ygroundit.

¶Amiddis quhome borne in ane goldin Chair
Duirfret with perle and ſtanis maiſt preclair
That drawin was by Haiknayis all milk quhite
Was ſet a Quene, as lyllie ſweit of ſwair
In Purpour Rob hemmit with gold Ilk gair.
Quhilk Gemmit claſpis cloſit all perfite.
A Diademe maiſt pleſandlie polite
Set on the treſſis of hir giltin hair
And in hir hand a Scepter of delite.

¶Sine nixt hir raid in granit violate
Twelf damiſellis Ilk ane in thair eſtait:
Quhilks ſemit of hir counſell maiſt ſecre.
And nixt thame was a luſtie rout God wait
Lords, Ladyis, and mony fair Prelait:
Baith borne of hie eſtait and law degre.
Furth with thair Quene, thay all by paſſit me
Ane eſie pais, thay rydīng furth the gait
And I abaid alone within the tre.

¶And as the rout was paſſit one and one,
And I remanand in the tre alone,
Out throw the wod come rydand Catiues twane
Ane on ane Affe, a widdie about his mone.
The vther raid, ane hiddeous hors vpone.
I paſſit furth and faſt at thame did frane.

Quhat

Quhat men thay wer? thay answerit me agane.
Our Namis bene Achitophel and Sinone.
That by our subtell menis, feill hes slane.

¶Wait ze (quod I) quhat signifeis zone rout?
Synon said zee: and gaue ane hiddeous schout
We wretchis bene abiect thair fra I wis.
Zone isthe Quene of Sapience but dout
Lady Minerue, and zone twelf hir about,
Ar the prudent Sibillais full of blis.
Cassandra eik Delbora and Circes
The fatall sisters twynand our weirdis out
Judith, Jael, and mony a Prophetis.

¶Quhilks groundit ar in firme Intelligence,
And thair is als into zone Court gone hence
Clerkis diuine, with problewmis curius.
As Salomon the well of Sapience.
And Aristotell fulfillit of prudence.
Salust, Senek, and Titus Liuius.
Pithagoras, Porphyre, Permenydus.
Melysses with his sawis but defence.
Sidrach, Secundus, and Solenyus.

¶Ptholomeus, Ipocras, Socrates,
Empedocles, Neptenabus, Hermes,
Galien, Auerroes, and Plato,
Enoch, Lameth, Job and Diogenes,
The eloquent and prudent Ulisses,
Wise Josephus, and facund Cicero,
Melchisedech with vther mony mo.
Thair veyage lyis throw out this wildernes,

To the Palice of Honour all thay go.

¶ Is situat from hence liggis ten hunder.
Our horsis oft, or we be thair will founder.
Adew we may na langer heir remane.
Or that ze pas (quod I) tell me this wonder.
How that ze wretchit Catiues thus at vnder.
Ar sociat with this Court Souerane?
Achitophell maid this answer agane.
Knawis thow not? Haill, eirdquaik, and thūder?
Ar oft in Ayr, with mony schour of rane.

¶ Richt sa we bene into this companie
Our wit aboundit and vsit was lewdlie?
My wisdome ay fulfillit my desire.
As thow may in the Bybill weill espy:
How Dauids prayer put my counsell by.
I gart his Sone aganis him conspire.
The quhilk was slane, quhairfoir vp be the swire
My self I hangit frustrat sa foulelie.
This Synon was a Greik that raisit fire.

¶ First into Troy, as Virgill dois report:
Sa tratour like maid him be draw ouirthort
Quhill in he brocht the hors with men of Armis
Quhairthrow the toun destroyit was at schort.
(Quod I) is this zour destanie and sort?
Cursit be he that sorrowis for zour harmis,
For ze haue bene schrewis baith be goddis armis
Ze will obtene na entres at zone port
Bot gif it be throw Sorcerie or Charmis.

¶ Ingres to haue (quod thay) we not presume,

It

It sufficis vs to se the Palice blume
And stād on rowme quhair better folk bene char=
For to remane adew we haur na tume (rit,
This Ilk way cūmis the Courtis be our dume
Of Diane and Venus, that feill hes marrit.
With that thay raid away as thay war skarrit
And I agane maist like ane Elriche grume
Crap in the muskane Aikin stok misharrit.

Thus wretchitlie I maid my residence.
Imagining feill syle for sum defence.
In contrair sauage beistis maist cruell.
For na remeid bot deid be violence
Sum time allwagis febill Indigence.
Thus in a part I recomfort my sell.
Bot that sa litle was I dar not tell.
The stichling of a Mous out of presence
Had bene to me mair vglum than the Hell.

Yit glaid I was that I with thē had spokin
Had not bene that certes my hart had brokin
For megirnes and pusillamitie.
Remanand thus within the tre all lokkin
Desirand fast sum signes or sum tokin,
Of Lady Venus or hir companie.
Ane Hart transformit ran fast by the tree
With houndis rent, on quhome Diane was wro=
Thairby I vnderstude that scho was nie. (kin

Thay had befoir declairit hir cūming.
Mair perūtelie forthy I knew the signe
Was Acteon, quhilk Diane nakit waittit

Bathing in a well and eik hir Madynnis zing.
The Goddes was commouit at this thing.
And him in fozme hes of ane Hart translatit:
I saw (allace) his houndis at him slatit:
Bakwert he blent to giue thame knawledgeing
Thay raik thair Lord misknew him at thē batit.

¶Sine Ladyis come with lustie giltin tressis,
In habit wilde maist like till fostaressis.
Amiddis quhome heich on ane Eliphant
In signe that scho in chaistitie Incressis
Raid Diane that Ladyis hartis dressis
Till be stabill and na way Inconstant.
God wait that nane of thame is variant.
All chaist and trew virginitie professis
I note. bot few I saw with Diane hant.

¶Intill that Court I saw anone present
Jephteis douchter a lustie Lady gent
Offerit to God in hir virginitie.
Polixena I wis was not absent.
Peanthesile with mannis hardyment
Effyom and Virgenius douchter fre
With vther flouris of feminitie
Baith of the new and the auld Testament
All on thay raid and left me in the tre.

¶In that desert dispers in sonder skatterit
Wer bewis bair quhome rane & wind on batterit
The water stank, the feild was odious
Quhair dragoūs, lessertis, askis, edders swatterit
With mouthis gapand, fozkit taillis tatterit.

With

With mony a stang and spoutis vennemous
Corrupting Air be rewme contagious
Waist gros and vile enpoysonit cludis clatterit
Reikand like hellis smoke sulfurious.

¶ My daisit heid sordullit diffelie.
I raisit vp halk in ane litargie.
As dois ane Catiue ydrunkin in sleip
And sa appeirit to my fantasie
A schynand licht out of the North eist sky.
The quhilk with cure to heir I did tak keip.
Proportion sounding dulcest hard I peip.
In Musick number full of Harmonie
Distant on far was carrit be the deip.

¶ Farther by water folk may soundis heir
Than be the eirth, the quhilk with poris seir
Vp drinkis Air that mouit is be sound.
Quhilk in compact water of ane Riueir
May nocht enter bot rinnis thair and heir.
Quhill it at last be carrit on the ground.
And thocht throw din be experience is found,
The fische ar caust within the Riuer steir
Inwith the water the noyis dois not abound.

¶ Violent din the Air brekis and deiris
Sine greit motioun of Air the water steiris
The water steirit, fisches for feirdnes fleis.
Bot out of dout na fische in water heiris.
For as we se richt few of thame hes eiris.
And eik forsuith, bot gif wise Clerkis leis
Thair is na Air Inwith waters nor seis,

But quhilk na thing may heir (as wise mē leiris)
Like as but licht thair is na thing that seis.

¶Aneuch of this I not quhat it may mene
I will returne till declair all bedene
My dreidfull breame with grislie fantasyis.
I schew beforr quhat I had hard or sene
Particularlie sum of my panefull tene.
Bot now God wait quhat feirdnes on me lyis
Langer (I said) and now this time is twyis
Ane sound I hard of Angellis as it had bene
With Harmonie fordinnand all the skyis.

¶Sa dulce, sa sweit, and sa Melodious.
That euerie wicht thair with micht be Joyous
Bot I and Catiues dullit in dispair.
For quhen a man is wraith or furious
Melancholik for wo, or tedious
Than is all plesance till him maist contrair.
And semblablie than sa did with me fair.
This Melodie Intonit heuinlie thus
For profound wo constranit me mak cair.

And murnand thus as ane maist wofull wicht
Of the maist plesand Court I had a sicht.
In warld adoun sen Adam was creat.
Quhat sang? quhat Joy? quhat harmonie? quhat
Quhat mirthfull solace plesance all at richt? (licht
Quhat fresche bewtie? quhat excelland estait?
Quhat sweit vocis? quhat wordis suggurait?
Quhat fair debaitis? quhat luiklū Ladyis bricht
Quhat lustie gallandis did on thair seruice wait?

Quhat

¶ Quhat gudlie pastance? and quhat mēstralie?
Quhat game thay maid? in faith not tell can I.
Thocht I had profound wit Angelicall.
The heuinlie soundis of thair Harmonie
Hes dynnit sa my drerie fantasie
Baith wit and ressoun half is loist of all.
Zit (as I knaw) als lichtlie say I sall.
That Angellike and godlie companie.
Till se me thocht a thing Celestiall.

¶ Proceidand furth was draw ane Chariote
Be Cursouris twelf trappit in grene veluote-
Of fine gold wer Junctures and harnasingis.
The Lymnaris wer of birneist gold God wote,
Baith airtre and quheillis of gold Ihote.
Of goldin cord wer lyamis and the stringis
Festinnit coniunct in massie goldin Ringis
Euyr Hamis conuenient for sic note
And raw silk brechamis ouir thair halsis hingis

¶ The bodie of the Cairt of Euir bone.
With Crisolitis and mony precious stone.
Was all ouirfret in due proportioun.
Like sternis in the Firmament quhilks schone.
Reparrellit was that godlike plesand wone
Tyldit abone, and to the eirth adoun,
In richest claith of gold of Purpure broun
But fas nor vther frenzeis had it none.
Saif claith of gold anamallit all fassioun.

¶ Quhairfra dependant hang thir megir bellis
Sum round, sum thraw in soūd the quhilks excel-

All wer of gold of Araby maist fine.
Quhilks with the wind concordandlie sa knellis
That to be glaid thair sound all wicht compellis
The Harmonie was sa Melodious fine.
In mannis voice and Instrument diuine
Quhair sa thay went it semit nathing ellis
Bot Jerarchyes of Angellis ordours nine.

¶Amid the Chair fulfillit of plesance.
Ane Lady sat, at quhais obeysance.
Was all that rout: and wonder is to heir
Of hir excelland lustie countenance.
Hir hie bewtie quhilk maist is to auance,
Precellis all, thair may be na compeir.
For like Phebus in hiest of his Spheir
Hir bewtie schane castand sa greit ane glance
All fairheid it oppresit baith far and neir.

Scho was peirles of schap and portrature,
In hir had nature finischit hir cure.
As for gude hauingis thair was nane bot scho.
And hir array was sa fine and sa pure.
That quhairof was hir Rob, I am not sure,
For nocht bot Perle and stanis micht I se.
Of quhome the brichtnes of hir hie bewtie,
For to behald my sicht micht not Indure,
Mair nor the bricht Sone may the Bakkis Ee.

¶Hir hair as gold or Topasis was hewit.
Quha hir beheld, hir bewtie ay renewit.
On heid scho had a Crest of dyamantis.
Thair was na wicht that gat a sicht, eschewit.

War

War he neuer sa constant or weill thewit.
Na he was woundit and him hir seruāt grantis
That heuinlie wicht, hir Cristall Ene sa dantis,
For blenkis sweit nane passit vnpersewit
Bot gif he wer preseruit as thir Sanctis.

¶I wonder sair and fast in mind did stair,
Quhat creature that micht be was sa fair,
Of sa peirles excellent womanheid.
And farlyand thus I saw within the Chair
Quhair that a man was set with lymmis squair
His bodie weill entailzeit euerie steid.
He bair a bow with dartis haw as leid.
His cleithing was als grene as ane Huntair:
Bot he forsuith had na Eine in his heid.

¶I vnderstude be signes persauabill,
That was Cuppd the God maist dissauabill,
The Lady Venus his Mother a Goddes,
I knew that was the Court sa variabill,
Of eirdly luse quhilk sendill standis stabill.
Bot zit thair mirth and solace neuertheles,
In Musick tone, and menstralie expres,
Sa craftelie with curage aggreabill,
Hard neuer wicht sic Melodie I ges.

¶Accompanyit lustie zonkeirs with all,
Freschе Ladyis sang in voice virgineall.
Concordis sweit, diuers entoned reportis,
Proportionis fine with sound Celestiall
Duplat, triplat, diatesseriall,
Seque, altera, and decupla resortis

Diapason of mony sindrie sortis
War soung and playit be seir cunning Menstrall
On luke Ballatis with mony fair disportis.

¶In modulatioun hard I play and sing
Faburdoun, prikſang, discant, countering,
Cant Dregane, figuratioun, and gemmell,
On croud, Lute, Harp, with mony gudlie spring.
Schalmes, Clariounis, portatiues hard I ring.
Monycord, Dregane, Tympane, and Cymbell,
Sytholl, Psalttrie, and voices sweit as bell.
Soft releschingis in dulce deliuering
Fractionis diuide at rest or clois compell.

¶Not Pan of Archaid sa plesandlie playis
Nor King Dauid quhais playing as men sayis,
Coniurit the Spreit, the quhilk Saul confoundit
Nor Amphion with mony subtell layis.
Quhilk Thebes wallit with harping in his day-
Nor he that first the subtell craftis foundit (is
Was not in Musick halk sa weill Iqroundit.
Nor knew thair measure tent daill be na wayis
At thair resort baith heuin and eird resoundit.

¶Na mair I vnderstude thir numbers fine
Be God than dois a greik or a swine
Saik that me think sweit soundis gude to heir
Na mair heiron my laubour will I tine.
Na mair I will thir verbillis sweit define.
How that thair Musick tones war mair cleir
And dulcer than the mouing of the Spheir.
Or Orpheus Harp of Thrace with sound diuine
Glaskeriane maid na noyis compeir.

¶Thay condiscend sa weill in ane accord,
That by na Joint thair soundis bene discord.
In euerie key thay werren sa expert.
Of thair array gif I suld mak record
Lustie springaldis and mony gudlie Lord.
Tender younglingis with piteous virgin hart.
Elder Ladyis knew mair of Lustis art.
Diuers vthers quhilks me not list remord
Quhais lakkest weid was silkis ouirbrouderit.

¶In vestures quent of mony sindrie gyse
I saw all claith of gold men micht deuise,
Purpour colour, punik and skarlote hewis.
Veluot Robbis maid with the grand assyse
Dames, Satyne, begaryit mony wise,
Cramessie satine, veluot enbroude in diuers rewis
Satine figures champit with flouris and bewis.
Damesklure, tere, pyle quhairon thair lyis
Peirle Dryphany quhilk euerie stait renewis.

¶Thair riche entire maist peirles to behald.
Wy wit can not discriue howbeit I wald
Wony entrappit steid with silkis seir.
Wony pattrell neruit with gold I tald
Full mony new gilt harnasing not ald.
On mony Palfray luiksum Ladyis cleir.
And nirt the Chair I saw formest appeir
Upon a bardit Curser stout and bald.
Wars God of strife enarmit in birneist geir.

¶Euerie Inuasibill wapon on him he bair
His luik was grym, his bodie large and squair.

His lymmis weill entailzeit to be strang?
His nek was greit a span lenth weill or mair:
His visage braid with Crisp broun curland hair
Of stature not ouir greit nor zit ouir lang.
Behaldand Venus, O ze my luke (he sang)
And scho agane with dalyance sa fair
Hir Knicht him cleipis quhair sa he ryde or gang.

¶Thair was Arcyte and Palemon alswa,
Accompanyit with fair Aemilia.
The Quene Dido with hir fals luke Enee.
Trew Troilus, vnfaithfull Cressida.
The fair Paris, and plesand Helena.
Constant Lucrece, and traist Penelope.
Kind Piramus, and wobegone Thysbe.
Dolorous Progne, trist Philomena.
King Dauids luke thair saw I Barsabe.

¶Thair was Ceix with the kind Alcyon.
And Achilles wroth with Agamemnon
For Brisida his Lady fra him tane.
Wofull Phillis with hir luke Demophoon.
Subtell Medea, and hir Knicht Jason.
Of France I saw thair Paris and Ueane,
Thair was Phedra, Theseus and Adriane
The secreit wise hardie Ipomedon.
Assueir, Hester, Irreprehensibill Susane.

¶Thair was the fals vnhappy Dalida.
Cruell wickit and curst Deianira.
Marryit Biblis, and the fair Absolon.
Ypsyphile, abhominabill Sylla.

Tristram

Tristram, Pylde, Helcana and Anna.
Cleopatra, and worthie Mark Anthone.
Iole, Hercules, Alcest, Irion.
The onlie patient wife Grissillida
Narcisus that his heid brak on ane stone.

Thair was Iacob with fair Rachel his miak
The quhilk become till Laban for hir faik,
Fourtene zeir bound with hart Immutabill.
Thair bene bot few sic now I vndertaik.
Thir fair Ladyis in silk and claith of Laik,
Thus lang sall not all foundin be sa stabill.
This Venus court, quhilk was in luſe maist abil
For till discriue my cunning is to waik
Ane multitude thay war Innumerabill.

¶ Of gudlie folke in euerie kinde and age,
With blenkis sweit freſche lustie grene curage,
And daliance thay ryding furth in feir.
Sum leuis in hope, and sum in greit thirlage,
Sum in dispair, sum findis his panis swage
Garlandis of flouris and rois Chaipletis seir
Thay bair on heid and samin sang sa cleir.
Quhill that thair mirth commouit my curage
Till sing this lay quhilk followand ze may heir.

¶ Constranit hart belappit in distres,
Groundit in wo, and full of heuines,
Complene thy panefull cairis Infinite.
Bewaill this warldis frail vnsteidfastnes,
Hauand regrait sen gane is thy glaidnes,
And all thy solace, returnit in dispite

O Catiue thrall Inuolupit in syte,
Confes thy fatall wofull wretchitnes,
Deuide in twane and furth diffound all syte,
Aggreuance greit in miserabill Indyte,

¶ My cruell fact subiectit to pennance
Predestinate sa void of all plesance
Hes euerie greif amid mine hart Ingraue.
The slide Inconstant destenie or chance,
Unequallie dois hing in thair ballance,
My demerites and greit dolour I haue,
This Purgatorie redoublis all the laue.
Ilk wicht hes sum weilfair at obeysance.
Saif me bysning that may na grace reflaue
Deid the addres and do me to my graue.

¶ Wo worth sic strang misfortoun anoyous
Quhilk hes oppresit my spreitis maist Joyous.
Wo worth this warldis freuch felicite.
Wo worth my feruent diseis dolorous,
Wo worth the wicht that is not pieteous
Quhair the trespassour penitent thay se.
Wo worth this deid that daylie dois me die.
Wo worth Cuppid and wo worth fals Venus.
Wo worth thame baith ay waryit mot thay be
Wo worth thair Court and cursit destenie.

¶ Loude as I mocht in dolour all distrenzeit
This lay I sang and not ane letter fenzeit,
Tho saw I Venus on hir lip did bite.
And all the Court in haist thair horis renzeit,
Proclamand louds quhair is zone Poid ÿ plenzeit
Quhilk deith deseruis committand sic dispite.
Fra tre to tre thay seirching but respite.

Quhil ane me fand quhilk faid & greit disdenzeit
Auant veillane thow reclus Imperfite,

¶All in ane Feuir out of my muskane bowre,
On kneis I crap and law for feir did lowze
Than all the Court on me thair heidis schuik.
Sum glowmand grim, sū girnand with visage sowze
Sum in the nek gaue me feil dyntis dowze.
Pluk at the Craw thay cryit, deplome the Ruik
Pulland my hair with blek my face thay bruik.
Skrymmozie Fery gaue me mony a clowze.
For chyppynutie ful oft my chaftis quuik.

¶With pane, tormēt, thus in thair teneful play
Till Venus bound thay led me furth the way.
Quhilk than was set amid a goldin Chair.
And sa confoundit into that fell affray
As that I micht considder thair array.
Ye thocht the feild onirspred with Carpettis fair
(Quhilk was toforr brint, barrane vile, and bair)
Mor maist plesand, bot all (the suith to say)
Micht nocht ameis my greuous panefull sair.

¶Enthronit sat Mars, Cupid and Venus.
Tho rais ane Clerk was cleipit Varius.
Ye till accusen of a deidlie crime.
And he begouth and red ane dittay thus.
Thow wickit Tatiue, wod and furious
Presumpteouslie now at this present time.
Vy Lady heir blasphemit in thy Rime.
Hir sone, hir self, and hir Court amorous
For till betrais awaittit heir sen Prime.

¶ Now God thow wait me thocht my fortune fey
With quaikand voce and hart cald as a key.
On kneis I kneillit and mercie culd Imploir
Submittand me but ony langer pley
Venus mandate and plesure to obey.
Grace was denyit and my trauell forloir.
For scho gaue charges to proceid as befoir.
Than Varius spak richt stoutlie me to fley
Inioynand silence till ask grace ony moir.

He demandit my answer quhat I said?
Than as I mocht with curage all mismaid
Fra time I vnderstude na mair supplie.
Sair abaisit, beliue I thus out braid:
Set of thir pointis of crime now on me laid
I may me quite giltles in veritie.
Zit first agane, the Judge quhilk heir I se,
This Inordinate Court and proces quaid
I will obiect for causis twa or thre.

¶ Inclynand law (quod I) with peteous face
I me defend, Madame pleis it zour grace
Say on (quod scho) than said I thus but mair.
Madame ze may not sit in to this cace.
For Ladyis may be Judges in na place.
And mairatouir I am na seculair
A Spirituall man (thocht I be void of lair)
Cleipit I am, and aucht my liues space
To be remit till my Judge ordinair.

¶ I zow beseik Madame with bissie cure
Till giue ane gratious Interlocuture

On

On thir exceptiounis now proponit lait.
Than suddanelie Venus (I zow assure)
Deliuerit sone and with a voice sa sture
Answerit thus, thow subtell smy God wait,
Quhat wenis thow to degraid my hie estait.
Ye to decline as Judge, curst creature
It beis not sa, the game gais vther gait.

¶As we the find thow sall thoill Judgement
Not of a Clerk we se the represent
Saif onlie falset and dissaitfull taillis.
First quhen thow come with hart and haill Intēt
Thow the submittit to my commandement.
Now now thairof me think to sone thow faillis.
I wene na thing bot folie that the aillis.
Zit Clerkis bene in subtell wordis quent.
And in the deid als schairp as ony snaillis.

¶Ze bene the men bewrayis my commandis:
Ze bene the men disturbis my seruandis:
Ze bene the men with wickit wordis feill.
Quhilk blasphemis freschc lustie zoung gallādis
That in my seruice and retinew standis.
Ze bene the men that cleipis zow sa leill,
¶Lith fals behest quhill ze zour purpois steill
Sine ze forsweir baith bodie treuth, and handis,
Ze bene sa fals ze can na word conceill.

¶Haue done (quod scho) schir Varius alswyth
Do write the sentence lat this Tatiue kyith.
Gif our power may deming his misdeid.
Than God thow wait gif that my Spreit was blyith.

The fewerous hew intill my face did myith
All my male eis, for swa the horribill dreid
Haill me ouirset: I micht not say my creid.
For feir and wo within my skin I wrythe
I micht not pray forsuith thocht I had neid.

Yit of my deith I set not half ane fle
For greit effeir me thocht na pane to die.
Bot fair I dred me for sum vther Jaip
That Venus suld throw hir subtillitie
In till sum bysning beist transfigurat me.
As in a Beir a Bair ane Dule, ane Aip.
I traistit sa for till haue bene mischaip
That oft I wald my hand behald to se
Gif it alterit, and oft my visage graip.

Tho I reuoluit in my minde anone,
How that Diane transformit Actone.
And Juno eik as for a kow gart keip.
The fair Io that lang was wobegone.
Argus hir zimmit that ane had mony one,
Quhome at the last Mercurius gart sleip.
And hir deliuerit of that danger deip.
I rememberit allo how in a stone
The wife of Loth Ichangit fair did weip.

I vmbethocht how Joue and auld Saturne
In till ane Wolf thay did Lycaon turne.
And how the mightie Nabuchodonosor
In beistlie forme did on the feild sojurne.
And for his gilt was maid to weip and murne.
Thir feirfull wonders gart me dreid full soir

For

For by exempilis oft I hard tofoir.
He suld bewar that seis his fellow spurne
Wischance of ane suld be ane vtheris loir.

And rolland thus in diuers fantaseis,
Terribill thochtis oft my hart did greis
For all remeid was alterit in dispair.
Thair was na hope of mercie till deuyis
Thair was na wicht my freind be na kin wyis,
All haillelie the Court was me contrair.
Than was all maist writtin the sentence fair
Wy febill minde seand this greit suppryis
Was than of wit and euerie blis full bair.

¶THE SECVND PART.

TO thus amid this hard perplexitie
Awaitand euer quhat moment I suld die?
Or than sum new transfiguratioun.
He that quhilk is eternall veritie.
The glorious Lord ringand in persounis thre
Prouydit hes for my Saluatioun
Be sum gude spreitis Reuelatioun.
Quhilk Intercessioun maid (I traist) for me
I forzet all Imaginatioun.

¶All haill my dreid I tho forzet in hy.
And all my wo, bot zit I wist not quhy
Saue that I had sum hope till be releuit.
I raisit than my visage haistelie
And with a blenk anone I did espy
A luik sicht quhilk nocht my hart engreuit,
Ane heuinlie rout, out throw the wod escheuit.

Of quhome the bountie gif I not deny
Uneith may be intill ane Scripture brewit.

¶With Lawreir Crownit in Robbis side all new,
Of a fassoun and all of stedfast hew,
Arrayit weill ane Court I saw cum neir,
Of wise degest Eloquent Fathers trew.
And plesand Ladyis quhilks fresch bewtie schew
Singand softlie full sweit on thair maneir,
On Poet wise all diuers versis seir
Historyis greit in Latine toung and grew
With freschc Indite and soundis gude to heir.

¶And sum of thame Ad Lyram playit and sang
Sa plesand verse quhill all the Roches rang
Yetir Saphik, and also Elygie
Thair Instrumentis all maist war Fidillis lang
Bot with a string quhilk neuer a wreist zeid wrãg
Sum had ane Harp, and sum a fair Psaltrie.
[On lutis sum thair accentis subtelle]
Deuydit weill and held the measure lang
In soundis sweit of plesand melodie.

¶The Ladyis sang in voices dulcorait
Facund Epistillis quhilks quhylum Duid wrait
As Phillis Quene send till Duke Demophoon,
And of Penelope the greit regrait
Send to hir Lord scho douting his estait
That he at Troy suld loist be or tone.
How Acontius till Cydippe anone
Wrait his Complaint thair hard I weill God wait
With vther lustie missiues mony one,

¶I had

For by exempilis oft I hard tofore.
He suld bewar that seis his fellow spurne
Mischance of ane suld be ane vtheris loir.

And rolland thus in diuers fantaseis,
Terribill thochtis oft my hart did greis
For all remeid was alterit in dispair.
Thair was na hope of mercie till deuyis
Thair was na wicht my freind be na kin wyis,
All haillelie the Court was me contrair.
Than was all maist writtin the sentence fair
My febill minde seand this greit suppryis
Alas than of wit and euerie blis full bair.

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Awaitand euer quhat moment I suld die?
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And all my wo, bot zit I wist not quhy
Saue that I had sum hope till be releuit.
I raisit than my visage haistelie
And with a blenk anone I did espy
A luik sicht quhilk nocht my hart engreuit,
Ane heuinlie rout, out throw the wod escheuit.

Zone is the Court of Joyous discipline
Quhilk causis folk thair purpois to expres
In oznate wise, prouokand with glaidnes
All gentill hartis to thair lair Incline.
Euerie famous Poeit men may deuine
Is in zone rout, lo zonder thair Princes
Thespis, Mother of the Musis nine.

¶And nixt her sine, hir dochter first byget
Lady Cleo, quhilk craftelie dois set
Historyis auld, like as hay war present,
Euerilk oulk day, daylie dois hir det
In dulce blastis of Pypis sweit but let.
The thzid sister Thalia diligent
In wantoun wzit, and Chzonikill dois Imprent
The feird endytis, oft with cheikis wet,
Sair tragedeis, Melpomene the gent.

¶Terpsichoze the syft with humbill soun
Makis on Psalteris modulatioun.
The sext Erato, like thir louers wilde
Will sing, daunce, and leip baith vp and doun.
Polymnia the seuint Muse of Renoun
Dytis thir sweit Rethozick colouris milde,
Quhilks ar sa plesand baith to man and Childe.
Urania the aucht sister with Croun,
Wzites the heuin, and starnis all bedene.

¶The nynt quhome to nane vther is compeir,
Calliope the lustie Lady cleir:
Of quhome the bewtie and the wozthines
Hir vertewis greit schynis baith far and neir

For

For scho of Nobill fatis hes the steir
To write thair worschip, victorie and prowes,
In Kinglie stile, quhilk dois thair fame Increes,
Cleipit in Latine Heroicus but weir,
Cheif of all write like as scho is Maistres.

¶Thir Musis nine lo zonder may ze se
With freshe Nymphes, of water and of sey,
And fair Ladyis of thir Tempillis auld
Pyerides, Dryades, and Saturee,
Nereides, Aones, Napee,
Of quhome the bounteis neidis not be tauld
Thus demit the Court of Venus monykauld:
Quhilk speiche refreschit my perpleritie
Reioysand weill my Spreit befoir was cauld.

¶The suddane sicht of that firme Court foirsaid
Recomfort weill my hew befoir was faid
Amid my spreit the Joyous heit redoundit,
Behalding how the lustie Musis raid
And all thair Court quhilk was sa blyith & glaid
Quhais merines all heuines confoundit,
Thair saw I weill in Poetrie ygroundit
The greit Homeir, quhilk in Greik langage said
Maist eloquentlie, in quhome all wit yboundit.

¶Thair was the greit Latine Virgilius,
The famous Father Poeit Ouidius,
Dictes, Dares, and eik the trew Lucane,
Thair was Plautus, Poggius, and Persius,
Thair was Terence, Donate, and Seruius,
Francis Petrache, Flaccus, Valeriane,

Thair was Esope, Cato, and Allane,
Thair was Gaulteir and Boetius,
Thair was also the greit Quintiliane.

¶Thair was the Satir Poet Juuenall,
Thair was the mirt and subtell Martiall.
Of Thebes Brute, thair was the Poet Stace:
Thair was Faustus, and Laurence of the Vale,
Pomponius, quhais fame of lait sans faill
Is blawin wide throw euerie Realm and place.
Thair was the Morall wise Poet Horace,
With mony vther Clerk of greit auaill
Thair was Brunell, Claudius and Boccbas.

¶Sa greit ane preis of pepill drew vs neir
The hundreth part thair names ar not heir,
Zit saw I thair of Brutus Albyon,
Geffray Chauceir, as A pe se sans peir
In his vulgare, and morall Johne Goweir.
Lydgait the Monk raid musing him allone
Of this Natioun I knew also anone
Greit Kennedie, and Dunbar zit vndeid,
And Quintine with ane Huttok on his heid.

¶Howbeit I culd declair and weill Indite
The bounteis of that Court dewlie to write
War ouir prolixt, transcending mine Ingine,
Tuiching the proces of my panefull site.
Beliue I saw thir lustie Musis quhite,
With all thair rout towart Venus decline.
Quhair Cupide sat with hir in Throne deuine,
I standand bundin in ane sorie plite
Bydand thair grace, or than my deidlie pine.

¶Straicht to the Quene thir samin Wulis raid
Waist eloquentlie thair salutatiounis maid,
Venus agane zald thame thair saluſing
Richt reuerentlie, and on hir feit vpbraid:
Beſeikand thame to licht, nay, nay, thay said
We may not heir mak na lang tarying.
Calliope maiſt facound and bening
Inquirit Venus quhat wicht had hir miſmaid
Or quhat was caus of hir thair ſoiorning.

¶Siſter (said ſcho) behald zone bysning ſchew
A ſubtell ſiny, conſidder weill his hew
Standis thair bound, and bekinnit hir to me,
Zone Catiue had blaſphemit me of new
For to degraid, and do my fame adew.
A laitlie Ryme diſpiteſull and ſubtell
Compylit hes, reheirſand loude and hie
Sclander, diſpite, ſorrow and velanie
To me, my Sone, and eik our Court for ay.

¶He hes deſeruit deith, he ſall be deid,
And we remaine forſuith into this ſteid
To Juſtiſie that Rebald Rennigait.
Quod Calliope, Siſter away all feid
Quhy ſuld he die, quhy ſuld he lois his heid.
To ſlay him for ſa ſmall ane cryme, God wait
Greitar degrading war to zour eſtait
To ſic as he to mak conter pleid
How may ane Fule zour hie honour chekmait.

¶Quhat of his lak, ſa wide zour fame is blaw
Zour excellence maiſt peirles is ſa knaw,

Na wretchis word may depair zour hie Name
Giue me his life, and modifie the Law
For on my heid he standis now sic aw
That he sall efter deserue neuer mair blame
Nocht of his deith ze may report bot schame,
In recompence of his misfettand saw
He sall zour hest in euerie part proclame.

¶Than Lord how glaid become my febil goist
My curage grew, the quhilk befoir was loist.
Seand I had sa greit ane Aduocait.
That expertlie but prayer, price or coist.
Obtenit had my friwoll actioun almoist.
Quhilk was befoir perischit and desolait.
This quhile Venus stude in ane studie strait,
Bot finallie scho schew till all the Dist
Scho wald do grace, and not be obstinait.

¶I will (said scho) haue mercie and pietie,
Do slaik my wraith, and let all rancour be
Quhair is mair vice, than to be ouir cruell,
And speciallie in wemen sic as me.
A Lady fy, that vsis tyrannie
Ane vennome is rather and a serpent fell
A vennemous dragoun, or ane deuill of hell
Is na compair to the Iniquitie
Of bald wemen, as thir wise Clerkis tell.

¶Greit God defend I suld be one of tho
Quhilk of thair feid and malice neuer ho
Out on sic gram, I will haue na repreif
Calliope, sister said to Venus tho

At zour

At zour requeist this wretche sall frelie go.
Heir I remit his trespas, and all greif
Sall be forzet, sa he will say sum breif
Or schort ballat, in contrair pane and wo
Tuitching my Laude, and his plesand releif.

¶And secundlie, the nixt ressonabill command
Quhilk I him charge, se that he nocht ganestand
On thir conditiounis Sister at zour requeist
He sall gang fre, quod Calliope Inclinand,
Grant mercie sister, I obleis be my hand
He sall obserue in all pointis zour behest,
Than Venus bad do slaik sone my arreist.
Beliue I was releuit of euerie band,
Uprais the Court, and all the Parlour reist.

¶Tho sat I doun lawlie upon my kne
At command of prudent Calliope
Zeildand Venus thankis ane thousand syith
For sa hie friendschip, and mercifull pietie
Excelland grace, and greit humanitie
The quhilk to me trespassour did scho kyith
I the forgiue (quod scho) than was I blyith
Doun on ane stock I set me suddanelie
At hir command, and wrait this lay alswyith.

¶Unwemmit wit deliuerit of dangair
Waist happelie deliuerit fra the snair,
Releuit fre of seruice and bondage,
Expell dolour, expell diseisis sair,
Auoid displesure, womenting and cair
Ressaue plesance, and do thy sorrow swage.

Behald thy glaid freſche luſtie grene curage
Reioyce amid thir louers but diſpair,
Prouide ane place to plant thy tender age
In leſtand bliſs, to remane and repair.

¶Quha is in welth? quha is weill fortunait?
Quha is in pietie diſſeuerit fra debait?
Quha leuis in hope? quha leuis in eſperance?
Quha ſtandis in grace? quha ſtandis in firme eſtait?
Quha is content, reioycit air or lait?
Or quha is he that Fortoun dois auance?
Bot thow that is repleniſchit of pleſance
Thow hes comfort, all weilfair delicait,
Thou hes glaidnes thow hes the happie chance
Thow hes thy will, thow be nocht deſolait.

¶Increes in mirthfull conſolatioun,
In Joyous ſweit Imaginatioun,
Abound in luſe of perſite Amouris
With diligent trew deliberatioun.
Rander louingis for thy Saluatioun
Till Venus, and vnder hir guerdoun all houris
Reſt at all eis, but fair or ſitefull ſchouris,
Abide in quiet, maiſt conſtant weilfair
[Be glaid and lycht now in thy luſty flouris]
Unwemmit wit deliuerit of all dangeir.

¶This lay was red in oppin audience
Of the Muſis, and in Venus preſence,
I ſtand content thou art obedient
Quod Calliope my companioun and defence,
Venus said eik it was ſum recompence
For my treſpas, I was ſa penitent.

And

And with that word all suddanelie scho went,
In ane Instant scho and hir Court was hence
Zit still abaid thir Musis on the bent.

¶Inclinand than, I said Calliope
My Protectour, my help, and my supplie,
My souerane Lady, my Redemptioun,
My Mediatour quhen I was dampnit to die
I sall beseik the godlie Maiestie
Infinite thankis, laude and benisoun
Zow till acquite, according zour Renoun
It langis nocht my possibilitie
Till recompence ten part of this guerdoun.

¶Gloir, honour, laude and reuerence conding
Quha may forzeild zow of sa hie ane thing,
And in that part zour mercie I Imploir
Submitting me my lifetime Induring
Zour plesure and mandate till obeysing
Silence (said scho) I haue aneuch heirfoir
I will thow wend and vesie wonderis moir
Than scho me hes betaucht in keiping
Of ane sweit Nymphe maist faithfull and decoir.

Ane horse I gat maist richelie besene
Was harneist all with wodbind leuis grene
Of the same sute the trappours law doun hang
Duir him I straid at command of the Quene,
Tho samin furth we ryding all bedene
Als swift as thocht with mony a merie sang
My Nimphe alwayis conuoyit me of thzang
Amid the Musis to se quhat thay wald mene

Quhilks sang & playit, bot neuer a weist zeid wrang.

¶Throw countreis seir, holtis and Roches hie
Duir vailis, planis, woddis, wallie, sey,
Duir fludis fair, and mony strait Montane
We war caryit in twinkling of ane Eye
Dur horsis flaw, and raid nocht as thocht me
Now out of France tursit in Tuskane,
Now out of Flanders heicht vp in Almanie
Now into Egypt, now into Italie,
Now in the Realme of Trace, & now in Spane.

¶The hie Montanes we passit of Germanie
Duir Appennynus deuydand Italie,
Duir Ryne, the Pow, and Tiber fludes fair,
Duir Alpheus, by Pyes the riche Cietie
Under the eirth, that enteris in the see,
Duir Rone, ouir Sane, ouir Frãce, & eik ouir Lair
And ouir Tagus the goldin sandit Riuair,
In Thessalie we passit the Mont Dethe
And Hercules in Sepulture sand thair.

Thair went we ouir the Riuer Peneyus
In Sicill eik, we passit the Mont Tinolus
Pleneist with Saiffron, Honie, and with wyne,
The twa toppit Famous Pernasus,
In Trace we went, out ouir the Mont Emus,
Quhair Orpheus leirit his Harmonie maist fyne
Duir Carmelus quhair twa Prophetis deuyne
Remanit Helias and Heliseus
Fra quhome the ordour of Carmelites come syne.

¶And nirt vnto the land of Amazon

In

In haist we past the Flude Termodyon
And ouir the hudge hill that hecht Mynas.
We raid the hill of Bacchus Citheron
And Olympus the Mont of Macedon
Quhilk semis heich vp in the heuin to pas
In that countrie we raid the flude Melas
Quhais water makis quhite scheip blak anone,
In Europe eik we raid the flude Thanas.

¶We raid the swift Riuer Sparthiades
The flude of Surry Achicorontes
The hill sa full of wellis cleipit Ida
Armenie hillis, and flude Euphrates,
The flude of Nyle, the precious flude Ganges
The hill of Sicill ay birnand Ethna
And ouir the Mont of Phrigie Dindama
Hallowit in honour of the Mother goddes
Cauld Caucasus we past in Sythia.

¶We past the fludis of Tigris and Phison
Of Thrace the Riuers Hebrun and Strymon,
The Mont of Modan and the flude Iordane,
The facund well and hill of Helicon,
The Mont Erix, the well of Acheron
Baith dedicate to Venus in certane,
We past the hill and desert of Libane
Quir Mont Cinthus quhair god Appollo schone
Straicht to the Musis Caballine Fontane.

¶Beside that Cristall well sweit and degest
Thame to repois, thair hors refresche and rest,
Alichtit doun thir Musis cleir of hew

The companie all haillelie leist and best
Thrang to the well to drink quhilk ran southwest
Throw out ane meid quhair alkin flouris grew
Amang the laif ful fast I did persew
To drink, bot sa the greit preis me oppresst,
That of the water I micht not taist a drew.

Our horsis pasturit in ane plesand plane
Law at the fute of ane fair grene Montane
Amid ane Meid schaddowit with Ceder treis,
Saif fra all heit, thair micht we weill remane.
All kinde of herbis, flouris, frute and grane
With euerie growand tre thair men micht cheis
The beriall stremis rinnand ouer stanerie greis
Maid sober noyis, the Schaw dinnit agane
For birdis sang and sounding of the beis.

¶The Ladyis fair on diuers Instrumentis
Went playand, singand, dansand ouir the bentis
Full Angellike, and heuinlie was thair soun,
Quhat creature amid his hart Imprentis
The fresche bewtie, the gudelie representis?
The merie speiche, fair hauingis, hie Renoun
Of thame, wald set a wise man half in swoun.
Thair womanlines wrythit the Elementis
Stoneist the heuin, and all the eirth adoun.

¶The warld may not considder nor discriue
The heuinlie Joy, the blis I saw beliue
Sa Ineffabill abone my wit sa hie,
I will na mair thairon my koirheid riue
Bot breistie furth my febill proces driue.

Law

Law in the Weid ane Palzeoun picht I se
Maist gudliest, and richest that micht be,
My Gouernour ofter than times fiue
Unto that hald to pas commandit me.

¶Swa finallie straicht to that Royall steid
In fellowschip with my leidar I zeid,
We enterit sone, the Portar was not thra
Thair was na stopping lang demand noz pleid
I kneillit law, and vnheildit my heid,
And tho I saw our Ladyis twa and twa,
Sittand on deissis, familiars to and fra
Seruand thame fast with Ypocras and Weid
Delicait meitis, dainteis seir alswa.

¶Gzeit was the pzeis, the Feist Royall to sene
At eis thay eit, with Interludis betwene.
Gaue Pzoblewmis seir, and mony fair demandis
Inquyzand quha best in thair times had bene.
Quha traist louers in lustie zeiris grene,
Sū said this way, and sum thairto ganestandis,
Than Calliope, Duide, to appeir commandis
My Clerk (quod scho) of Register bedene
Declair quha war maist wozthie of thair handis.

¶With Lawzere crownit at hir cōmandement
Upstude this Poeit digest and eloquent,
And schew the fatis of Hercules the strang
How he the grislie hellis hounds out rent,
Slew Lyounis, Monsturis, and mony fell Serpent
And to the deith feil michtie Gyātis dang,
Of Theseus eik, he schew the weiris lang,

Agane the Quene Ypolita the sweit
And how he slew the Minotaur in Creit.

¶Of Perseus he tauld the knichtlie deidis
Quhilk vinquischit, as men in Duide reidis
Cruell tyrantis, and Monstures mony one
Of Dianis Bair in Callidon the dreidis
How throw ane Ladyis schot his lydis bleidis
The bretheris deith, and sine the sisters mone
He schew how King Priamus sone Ysacone
Ekter his deith, bodie and all his weidis,
Intill ane Skarth transformit was anone.

¶He schew at Troy quhat wise the Greiks lads:
How feirs Achilles stranglit with his handis
The vailzeät Cygnus, Neptunus sone maist deir
Quhilk at Greikis arriuall on the strandis
A thousand slew that day vpon the sandis,
Faucht with Achill, and bluntit all his speir.
Na wapin was that micht him wound or deir
Quhill Achilles brist of his Helme the bandis,
And wirryit him be force for all his feir.

¶He schew full mony transmutatiounis
And wonderfull new figuratiounis
Be hundrethis mo than I haue heir expremit,
He tauld of lufis meditatiounis,
The craft of lufe, and the Saluatiounis
How that the furie lustis suld be flemit
Of diuers vther maters als he demit,
And be his prudent schairp Relatiounis
He was expert of all thing as it semit.

Vprais

¶Uprais the greit Virgilius anone
And playit the sportis of Daphnis & Corydone,
Sine Terence come and playit the Comedy
Of Parmeno, Thrason and wise Gnatone
Iuuenall like ane mowar him allone
Stude scornand euerie man as thay zeid by.
Martiall was Cuik till roist, seith, farce and fry,
And Poggius stude with mony girne and grone
On Laurence Valla spittand and cryand fy.

¶With mirthis thus, and meitis delicait
Thir Ladyis feistit according thair estait
Uprais at last commandand till tranoynt
Retreit was blawin loude, and than God wait
Yen micht haue sene swift horsis haldin hait,
Schynand for sweit as thay had bene anoynt.
Of all that rout was neuer a prik disioynt
For all our tary, and I furth with my mait
Mountit on hors, raid sawin in gude point.

¶Duir mony gudelie plane we raid bedene
The vaill of Hebron, the Camp Damascene,
Throw Iosaphat, and throw the lustie vaill,
Duir waters wan, throw worthie woddis grene,
And swa at last in lifting vp our Ene
We se the finall end of our trauaill
Amid ane plane a plesand Roche to waill,
And euerie wicht fra we that sicht had sene
Thankand greit God thair heidis law deuaill.

¶With singing, lauchyng, merines and play
Unto this Roche we ryden furth the way,

Now mair to write for feir trimblis my pen,
The hart may not think nor mannis toung say,
The Eir nocht heir, nor zit the Eye se may
It may not be Imaginit with men
The heuinlie blis, the perfite Joy to ken
Quhilk now I saw, the hundreth part all day
I micht not schaw thocht I had toungis ten.

¶Thocht all my members toügis war on raw
I war not abill the thousand fauld to schaw,
Quhairfoir I feir ocht farther mair to write,
For quhidder I this in saull or bodie saw
That wait I nocht, bot he that all dois knaw
The greit God wait, in euerie thing perfite
Eik gif I wald, this auisioun Indite
Janglaris suld it bakbite and stand nane aw
Cry out on dremis quhilks ar not worth ane mite.

¶Sen this till me all veritie be kend
I repute better thus to mak ane end,
Than ocht to say that suld heiraris engreif.
On vther side thocht thay me vilipend
I considder prudent folk will commend
The veritie, and sic Jangling repreif
With quhais correctioun, support and releif
Furth to proceid, this proces I pretend
Traistand in God my purpois to escheif.

¶Howbeit I may not euerie circumstance
Reduce perfitelie in remembrance.
Wyne Ignorance zit sum part sall deuise
Tuitching this sicht of heuinlie sweit plesance.

Now

Now emptie pen write furth thy lustie chance
Schaw wonderis feill, suppois thow be not wise
Be diligent, and ripelie the auise,
Be quick and schairp voidit of variance
Be sweit, and caus not gentill hartis grise.

¶THE THRID PART.

ZE Musis nine be in my adiutorie,
That maid me se this blis and perfite glorie
Teiche me zour facund castis Eloquent,
Len me a recent schairp fresche memorie
And caus me dewlie till Indite this storie
Sum gratious sweitnes in my breist Imprent
Till mak the heirars bowsum and attent
Reidand my writ, Illuminate with zour loir
Infinite thankis randerand zow thairfoir.

¶Now breiflie to my purpois for till gone
About the hill lay wayis mony one
And to the hicht bot ane passage Ingraue,
Hewin in the Roche of slid hard Marbell stone
Agane the Sone like to the glas it schone,
The ascence was hie, and strait for till consaue
Zit than thir Musis gudelie and suaue
Alichtit doun, and clam the Roche in hie
With all the rout, outtane my Nimphe and I.

¶Still at the hillis fute we twa abaid
Than suddanelie my keipar to me said
Ascend Galland, than for feir I quoik,
Be not affrayit, scho said be not dismaid,
And with that word vp the strait rod abraid

I followit fast, scho be the hand me tuik,
Zit durst I neuer for dreid behind me luik
With mekill pane thus clam I neir the hicht
Quhair suddanelie I saw ane grislie sicht.

¶As we approchit neir the hillis heid
Ane terribill sewch birnand in flammis reid
Abhominabill, and how as hell to se
All full of Brintstane, Pick and bulling Leid,
Quhair mony wretchit creature lay deid.
And miserabill catiues zelland loude on hie
I saw, quhilk den micht weill compairit be
Till Xanthus the flude of Troy sa schill
Birnand at Venus hest contrair Achill.

¶Amid our passage lay this vglie sicht
Nocht braid bot sa horribill to euerie wicht
That all the warld to pas it suld haue dreid.
Weill I considderit na vppermair I micht,
And to discend sa hiddeous was the hicht
I durst not auenture for this eird on dreid
Trimbland I flude wt teith chatterand gude speid
Qy Nymphe beheld my cheir and said let be
Thow sall nocht aill, and lo the caus (quod sche.)

¶To me thow art commit, I sall the keip,
Thir pieteous pepill amid this laithlie deip
War wretchis quhilks in lustie zeiris fair
Pretendit thame till hie honour to creip.
Bot suddanelie thay fell on sleuthfull sleip
Followand plesance, drownit in this Loch of cair
And with that word scho hint me be the hair.

Carpit

Carpit me till the hillis heid anone
As Abacuk was brocht in Babylone.

¶As we bene on the hie hill situait,
Luik doun (quod scho) consaue in quhat estait
Thy wretchit warld thow may considder now
At hir command with mekill dreid God wait
Out ouir the hill sa hiddeous hie and strait
I blent adoun, and felt my bodie grow
This brukill eird sa litill till allow
Ye thocht I saw birne in ane fyrie rage
Of stormie sey quhilk micht na maner swage.

¶That terribill tempest hiddeous wallis huge
War maist griflie for to behald or Judge
Quhair nouther rest nor quiet micht appeir
Thair was ane perrellous place folk for to ludge
Thair was na help, support nor zit refuge
Innumerabill folk I saw flotterand in feir
Quhilk pereist on the walterand wallis weir
And secundlie I saw ane lustie Barge
Quirset with seyis and mony stormie charge.

¶This gudelie Carwell taiklit traist on raw
With blanschite saill milk quhite as ony snaw,
Richt souer tieht and wonder stranglie beildit
Was on the bairdin wallis quite ouirthraw
Contrariouslie the busteous wind did blaw
In bubbis thik, that na schipis sail micht weild it
Now sank scho law, now hie to heuin vpheildit,
At euerie part swa sey and windis draif
Quhill on ane sand the schip did brist and claif.

¶It was ane pieteous thing, alaik, alaik,
To heir the dulefull cry quhen that scho straik
Maist lamentabill the pereist folk to se
Sa fameist, drowkit, mait, forwrocht and waik.
Sum on ane plank of Fir tre, and sum of Aik,
Sum hang vpon a Takill, sum on ane tre,
Sum fra thair grip sone weschin with the see
Part drownit, part to the Roche fleit or swam
On raipis or burdis sine vp the hill thay clam.

¶Tho at my Nimphe breistie I did Inquire
Quhat signifyit that feirfull wonders seir
Zone multitude (said scho) of pepill drownit
Ar faithles folk, quhilks quhill thay ar heir
Wilknawis God, and followis thair plesseir,
Quhairfoir thay sall in endles fire be brint,
Zone lustie schip thow seis pereist and tint
In quhome zone pepill maid ane perrellous race
Scho hecht the Carwell of the state of grace.

¶Ze bene all borne the sonnis of Ire I ges
Sine throw Baptisme gettis grace and faithfulnes.
Than in zone Carwell surelie ze remane,
Oft stormested with this warldis brukilnes
Quhill that ze fall in sin and wretchitnes
Than schip brokin sall ze drown in endles pane
Except be faith ze find the plank agane
Be Christ, wirking gude warkis I vnderstand
Remane thairwith, thir sall zow bring to land.

¶This may suffice (said scho) tuitchād this part
Returne thy heid behald this vther art

Considder

Considder wonders, and be vigilant
That thow may better endyten efterwart
Things quhilkis I sall the schaw or we depart,
Thow sall haue couth of sentence and not scant.
Thair is na welth nor weilfair thow sall want
The greit Palice of honour thow sall se
Lift vp thy heid, behald that sicht (quod sche)

¶At hir command I raisit hie on hicht
My visage till behald that heuinlie sicht,
Bot to discriue this mater in effek
Impossibill war till ony eirdlie wicht
It transcendis far abone my micht
That I with Ink may do bot paper blek
I mon draw furth the zok lyis on my nek
As of the place to say my leude auise
Pleneist with plesance like to Paradice.

¶I saw ane plane of peirles pulchritude
Quhairin aboundit alkin thingis gude,
Spice, wine, corne, oyle, tre, frute, flour, herbis grene
All foullis, beistis, birdis, & alkin fude,
All maner fisches baith of sey and flude.
War keipit in pondis of poleist siluer schene
With purifyit water as of the Cristall clene
To noy the small, the greit beistis had na will,
Nor Rauenous foulis the lytill Volatill.

¶Still in the sessoun all things remanit thair
Perpetuallie but outher noy or fair,
Ay rypit war baith herbis, frute and flouris
Of euerie thing the names to declair

¶It was ane pieteous thing, alaik, alaik,
To heir the dulefull cry quhen that scho straik
Maist lamentabill the pereist folk to se
Sa fameist, drowkit, mait, forwrocht and waik.
Sum on ane plank of Fir tre, and sum of Aik,
Sum hang vpon a Takill, sum on ane tre,
Sum fra thair grip sone weschin with the see
Part drownit, part to the Roche fleit or swam
On raipis or burdis fine vp the hill thay clam.

¶Tho at my Nimphe breistie I did Inquire
Quhat signifyit that feirfull wonders seir
Zone multitude (said scho) of pepill drownit
Ar faithles folk, quhilks quhill thay ar heir
Misknawis God, and followis thair pleseir,
Quhairfoir thay sall in endles fire be brint,
Zone lustie schip thow seis pereist and tint
In quhome zone pepill maid ane perrellous race
Scho hecht the Carwell of the state of grace.

¶Ze bene all borne the sonnis of Ire I ges
Sine throw Baptisme gettis grace and faithfulnes.
Than in zone Carwell surelie ze remane,
Oft stormested with this warldis brukilnes
Quhill that ze fall in sin and wretchitnes
Than schip brokin sall ze drown in endles pane
Except be faith ze find the plank agane
Be Christ, wirking gude warkis I vnderstand
Remane thairwith, thir sall zow bring to land.

¶This may suffice (said scho) tuitchād this part
Returne thy heid behald this vther art

Considder

Considder wonders, and be vigilant
That thow may better endyten efterwart
Things quhilkis I sall the schaw or we depart,
Thow sall haue couth of sentence and not scant.
Thair is na welth nor weilfair thow sall want
The greit Palice of honour thow sall se
Lift vp thy heid, behald that sicht (quod sche)

¶At hir command I raisit hie on hicht
My visage till behald that heuinlie sicht,
Bot to discriue this mater in effek
Impossibill war till ony eirdlie wicht
It transcendis far abone my micht
That I with Ink may do bot paper blek
I mon draw furth the zok lyis on my nek
As of the place to say my leude auise
Pleneist with plesance like to Paradice.

¶I saw ane plane of peirles pulchritude
Quhairin aboundit alkin thingis gude,
Spice, wine, corne, oyle, tre, frute, flour, herbis grene
All foullis, beistis, birdis, & alkin fude,
All maner fisches baith of sey and flude.
War keipit in pondis of poleist siluer schene
With purifyit water as of the Cristall clene
To noy the small, the greit beistis had na will,
Nor Rauenous foulis the lytill Volatill.

¶Still in the sessoun all things remanit thair
Perpetuallie but outher noy or sair,
Ay rypit war baith herbis, frute and flouris
Of euerie thing the names to declair

Unto my febill wit vnpossibill wair
Amid the Weid repleit with sweit odouris
A Palice stude with mony Royall Towris
Quhair kyrnellis quent feil turrettis men micht find
And goldin Thanis waikand ů the wind.

¶ Pinnakillis, Fyellis, Turnpekkis mony one
Gilt birneist torris, quhilk like to Phebus schone
Skarlment, Reprise, Corbell and Battellingis,
Fulzery bordouris of mony precious stone.
Subtile muldrie wrocht mony day agone
On Butterris, Jalme pillaris & pleſand springis
Quick Imagerie, with mony lustie singis
Thair micht be sene, and mony worthie wichtis
Befoir the zet arrayit all at richtis.

¶ Furth past my Nimphe, I followit subsequēt
Straicht throw the plane to the first waird we went
Of the Palice, and enterit at the port.
Thair saw we mony staitlie tornament
Lancis brokin, knichtis laid on the bent,
Pleſand pastance, and mony lustie sport.
Thair saw we als, and sumtime battell mort
All thir (quod scho) on Venus seruice vaikis
In deidis of armis for thair Ladyis saikis.

¶ Vesyand I stude, the principall place but peir
That heuinlie Palice all of Cristall cleir,
Wrocht as me thocht of poleist berall stone
Bosiliall, nor Oliab but weir,
Quhilk Sancta Sanctorum maid maist riche & deir
Nor he that wrocht the Tempill of Salomon

Nor

Nor he that beildit the Royall Ylion
Nor he that forgit Darius Sepulture
Culd not performe sa craktelie ane cure.

¶Studiand heiron my Nimphe vnto me spak
Thus in a stair quhy standis thow stupifak
Gouand all day, and nathing hes vefite.
Thow art prolirt, in haist returne thy bak,
Ga efter me and gude attendance tak.
Quhat now thow seis, luik efterwart thow write
Thow sall behald all Venus blis perfite.
Thair with scho till ane garth did me conuoy
Quhair that I saw aneuch of perfite Joy.

¶Amid ane Throne with stanis riche ouirfret,
And claith of gold Lady Venus was set
By hir, hir Sone Cupide quhilk nathing seis,
Quhair Mars enterit na knawledge micht I get
Bot straicht befoir Venus visage but let
Stude emeraut stages twelf, grene precious greis
Quhairon thair grew thre curious goldin treis
Vp standand weill the Goddes face befornne
Ane fair Mirrour be thame quentlie vpborne.

¶Quhairof it makit was I haue na feill
Of beriall Cristall glas or birneist steill,
Of Diamant, or of the Carbunkill Gem,
Quhat thing it was, define may I not weill,
Bot all the bordour circulair euerie deill
Was plait of gold, rais, stok and vtter hem,
With verteous stanis picht that blude wald stem
For quha that woundit was in the Tornament,

Wox haill fra he vpon the Mirrour blent.

¶This royall Relick sa riche and radious
Sa poleist, plesand, purifyit and precious
Quhais bounteis half to write I not presume,
Thairon to se was sa delitious,
And sa excelland schaddowis gracious
Surmounting far in brichtnes to my dome
The coistlie subtell spectakill of Rome
Or zit the Mirrour send to Canace,
Quhairin men micht mony wonders se.

¶In that mirrour I micht se at ane sicht
The deidis and fatis of euerie eirdlie wicht
All thingis gone like as thay war present
All the creatiounis of the Angellis bricht
Of Lucifer the fall for all his micht.
Adam first maid, and in the eirth ysent
And Noyes flude thair saw I subsequent
Babylon beild that Towre of sic Renoun
Of Sodomes the feill subuersioun.

¶Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph I saw
Hornit Moyses with his auld Hebrew Law
Ten Plaiges in Egypt send for thair trespas,
In the reid sey with all his Court on raw
King Pharao drownit, ȳ God wald neuer knaw
I saw quhat wise the sey deuydit was
And all the Hebrewis dry fute ouir it pas
Sine in desert I saw thame fourtie zeiris
Of Josue I saw the worthie weiris.

¶Of

¶Of Judicum the battellis strang anone
I saw of Jephte, and of Gedeone,
Of Amalech the cruell Homicide,
The wōderfull wozkis of douchtie Duke Samsone
Quhilk slew a thousand w̄ ane Asses bone.
Rent Tempillis doun, and zettis in his pride
Of quhais strenth merwellis this warld sa wide
I saw Duke Sangoz thair with mony a knok
Sex hundzeth men slew with ane Pleuchis sok.

¶The prophet Samuel saw I in that glas
Anoyntit King Saul, quhais sone Jonathas
I saw vincus ane greit Dist him allane:
Zoung Dauid sla the grislie Golyas
Quhais speir heid wecht thze hūdzeth vnces was
Jesbedonab the Gyant mekill of mane
Lay be the handis of michtie Dauid slane
With fingers sex on ather hand but weir.
Dauid I saw sla baith Lyoun and Beir.

¶This Dauid eik at ane onset a stound
Aucht hundzeth men I saw him bzing to ground
With him I saw Banayas the strang
Quhilk twa Lyounis of Moab did confound,
And gaue the stalwart Ethiop deidis wound
With his awin speir that of his hand he thzang
Unabastlie this Campioun saw I gang
In a deip cisterne, and thair a Lyoun sleuch
Quhilk in ane stozme of snaw did harme aneuch.

¶Of Salomon the wisdome and estait,
Thair saw I, and his riche Tempill God wait

His sone Roboam quhilk throw his helis pride
Tint all his liegis hartis be his fait.
He was to thame sa outrageous Ingrait,
Of twelf Tribes ten did fra him deuide.
I saw the Angell sla be nichtis tide
Four scoir thousandis of Sennacheribs Dist
Quhilk come to weir on Jowrie with greit boist.

¶I saw the life of the King Ezechy
Prolongit xv. zeir and the Prophet Hely
Amid a fyrie Chair to Paradice went,
The storyis of Esras and of Neemy,
And Daniell in the Lyounis Caue saw I
For he the Dragoun slew, Bel brak and schent
The Children thre amid the Fornace sent,
I saw the transmigratioun in Babylon
And baith the buikis of Paralipomenon.

¶I saw the halie Archangell Raphaell,
Marie Sara, the douchter of Raguell
On Thobias for his Just Fathers saik,
And bind the cruell Deuill that was sa fell
Quhilk slew hir seuin first husbands as thay tell
And how Judith Holiphernes heid of straik,
Be nichtis tyde, and fred hir toun fra wraik,
Jonas in the Quhaillis wombe dayis thre
And schot furth sine I saw at Niniue.

¶Of Job I saw the patience maist degest
Of Alexander I saw the greit conquest,
Quhilk in twelf zeiris wan neir this warld on breid
And of Anthiocus the greit vnrest,

How

How tyranlie he Iowzie all oppzest,
Of Machabeus full mony ane Knichtlie deid
That gart all Grece and Egypt stand in dzeid
In quiet bzocht his Realme thzow his pzowes
I saw his bzether Symon and Ionathas.

¶Quhilks war maist wozthie quhil thair dayis rang
Of Thebes eik I saw the weiris lang,
Quhair Tydeus allone slew fiftie Knichtis,
How finallie of Grece the Campiounis strang
All haill the flour of Knichtheid in that thzang
Destroyit was, quhill Theseus with his michtis
The toun and Creon wan foz all his slichtis.
Thair saw I how, as Statius dois tell
Amphiozar the Bischop sank to hell.

¶The faithful Ladyis of Grece I micht cõsidder
In claithis blak all bairfute pas togidder,
Till Thebes sege fra thair Lozdis war slane.
Behald ze men that callis Ladyis lidder
And licht of laitis, quhat kindnes bzocht thẽ hidder
Quhat treuth & luse did in yair bzeists remane
I traist ze sall reid in na wzit agane
In ane Realme sa mony of sic constance
Persaue thairby wemen ar till auance.

¶Of Duke Pirithous the sponsage in ẏ tide
Quhair the Centauris reft away the bzide
Thair saw I, and thair battell hudge to se,
And Hercules quhais Renoun walkis wide
For Iriona law by Troyis side,
Faucht and ouircome a Monstour in the sey

For quhilk (quhen his rewaird denyit was) he
Maid the first seige and the destructioun
Of michtie Troy, quhylum that Royall toun.

¶To win the fleis of gold tho saw I sent
Of Grece the Nobillis, with Jason consequent,
Haill thair conqueist, and all Medeas slichtis
How for Jason Ypsiphile was schent,
And how at Troy as thay to Colchos went
Greikis tholit of King Laomedon greit vnrichtis
Quhairfoir Troy destroyit was be thair michtis
Iriona reuist, and Laomedon slane
Bot Priamus restorit the toun agane.

¶The Judgement of Paris saw I sine
That gaue the Apill, as Poetis can define
Till Venus, as goddes maist gudlie,
And how in Grece he reuischit Quene Helene
Quhairfoir the Greikis with thair greit Nauie
Full mony thousand Knichtis haistelie
Thame till reuenge saillit towart Troy in hy
I saw how be Ulixes with greit Joy
Quhat wise Achill was found & brocht to Troy.

¶The cruell battellis and the dintis strang
The greit debait, and eik the weiris lang
At Troyis seige, the Mirrour to me schew
Sustenit ten zeiris Greikis Troianis amang.
And ather partie set full oft in thrang,
Quhair that Hector did douchtie deidis anew
Quhill feirce Achil baith him and Troylus slew
The greit hors maid I saw, and Troy sine tint,

And

And fair Ylion all in flambis brint.

¶Sine out of Troy I saw the Fugitiues,
How that Eneas, as Virgill weill discriues
In countreis seir was be the seyis rage
Bewauit oft, and how that he arriues
With all his Flote, but danger of thair liues,
And how thay war resset baith man and page
Be Quene Dido, remanand in Carthage,
And how Eneas sine, as that thay tell
Went for to seik his Father doun in hell.

¶Quir Stix the Flude I saw Eneas fair
Quhair Charon was the busteous Ferriar,
The Fludes four of hell thair micht I se
The folk in pane, the wayis circulair
The welterand stone wirk Sisipho micht cair
And all the plesance of the Camp Elise
Quhair auld Anchises did commoun with Enee,
And schew be line all his successioun
This Ilk Eneas maist famous of Renoun.

¶I saw to Goddes mak the Sacrifice
Quhairof the ordour and maner to deuise
War our prolixt, and how Eneas syne
Went to the schip, and eik I saw quhat wise
All his Mauie greit hounger did supprise.
How he in Italie finallie with greit pyne
Arryuit at the strandis of Lauyne,
And how he faught weill baith on landis & seyis
And Turnus slew the King of Rutileis.

¶Rome saw I beildit first be Romulus,
And eik how lang as writes Liuius
The Romane Kingis abone the pepill rang
And how the wickit proud Tarquinius
With wife and barnis be Brutus Junius,
War exylit Rome for thair Insufferabill wrang,
Bot all the proces for to schaw war lang
How chaist Lucrece the gudliest and best
Be Sextus Tarquine was cruellie oppreſt.

¶The Punik battellis in that Mirrour cleir
Betwene Carthage and Romanis mony zeir,
I saw becaus Eneas pietous
Fled fra Dido be admonitiounis seir
Betwene thir pepill rais ane langsum weir.
I saw how worthie Marcus Regulus
Maist vailzeand, prudent, and victorious,
Howbeit he micht at libertie gone fre
For commoun profite cheisit for to die.

¶Tullus Seruilius douchtie in his daw,
And Marcus Curtius eik in the Mirrour I saw
Quhilk throw his stoutnes in the fyrie gap
For commoun profite of Rome him self did thraw
Richt vnabaistlie hauand na dreid nor aw
Mountit on hors, vnarmit thairin lap.
And Hanniball I saw be fatall hap
Win contrair Romanis mony fair victorie
Quhill Scipio eclipsit all his glorie.

¶This worthi Scipio cleipit Afrricane
I saw vincus this Hanniball in plane,

And

And Carthage bring vnto finall ruine.
And fine to Rome cõquerit the Realme of Spane
How King Jugurtha hes his brether flane.
Thair faw I eik, and of his weir the fine
Richt weill I faw the battellis Intestine
Of Catilina, and of Lentulus
And betwene Pompey, and Cesar Julius.

¶And breifliе euerie famous douchtie deid,
That men in storie may se or Chronikill reid
I micht behald in that Mirrour expres
The miserie, the crueltie, the dreid,
Pane, sorrow, wo, baith wretchitnes and neid
The greit Inuy, couetous dowbilnes.
Tuitchand warldlie vnfaithfull brukilnes.
I faw the Feind fall folkis to vices tyll
And all the cũming of the Antechrist.

¶Plesand debaitmentis quha sa richt reportis
Thair micht be sene, and all maner disportis,
The Falcounis for the Riuer at thair gait
Newand the foullis in periculo mortis,
Layand thame in be companeis and sortis,
And at the plunge part faw I handillit hait
The werie Hunter besie air and lait
With questing Houndis seirching to and fra
To hunt the Hart, the Bair, the Da, the Ra.

¶I faw Rak Coilzear with his thrawin brow
Traibit Johne the Reif, & auld Cowkewyis sow
And how the Wran come out of Aillsay,
And Peirs plewmã that maid his workmen kow

Greit Gowmakmorne & Fyn Makcoull, & how
Thay suld be Goddis in Ireland as thay say
Thair saw I Maitland vpon auld beird gray,
Robene Hude, and Gilbert with the quhite hand
How Hay of Nauchtoun slew in Madin land.

¶The Nigromansie thair saw I eik anone
Of Benytas, Bongo, and Freir Bacone,
With mony subtill point of Juglary
Of Flanders peis maid mony precious stone.
Ane greit laid sadill of a sicking bone,
Of ane Nutemug thay maid a Monk in hy
Ane Paroche Kirk of ane penny py.
And Benytas of ane Mussill maid ane Aip
With mony vther subtill mow and Jaip.

¶And schortlie to declair the veritie
All plesand pastance, and gammis that micht be
In that Mirrour war present to my sicht,
And as I wonderit on that greit karlie
Venus at last in turning of hir Eye
Knew weill my face, and said be Goddis micht
Ze bene welcum my presonar to this hicht,
How passit thow (quod scho) this hiddeous deip?
Madame (quod I) I not mair than ane scheip.

¶Na force thairof (said scho) sen thow art heir
How plesis the our pastance and esseir?
Glaidlie (quod scho) Madame be God of heuin.
Rememberis thow (said scho) withouttin weir
On thy promit, quhen of thy greit dangeir
I the deliuerit? as now is not to neuin,

Than

Than answerit I agane with sober steuin,
Madame zour precept quhat sa be zour will
Heir I remane all reddy to fulfill.

¶Weill, weill, (said scho) thy will is sufficent
Of thy bowsum answer I stand content,
Than suddanelie in hand ane buik scho hint
The quhilk to me betaucht scho or I went.
Commandand me to be obedient,
And put in Ryme that proces than quite tint
I promisit hir forsuith or scho wald stint
The buik ressauand, thairon my cure to preif
Inclinand sine, lawlie I tuik my leif.

¶Tuitchand this buik perauenture ze sall heir
Sum time efter, quhen I haue mair laseir,
My Nimphe in haist scho hint me be the hand
And as we samyn walkit furth in feir
I the declair (quod scho) zone Mirrour cleir
The quhilk thow saw befoir Dame Venus stand
Signifyis na thing ellis to vnderstand
Bot the greit bewtie of thir Ladyis facis
Quhairin louers thinks thay behald all graces.

¶Scho me conuoyit finallie to tell
With greit plesance straicht to the riche Castell,
Quhair mony saw I preis to get Ingres.
Thair saw I Sinon and Achitophell
Preissand to clim the wallis, and how thay fell.
Lucius Catiline saw I thair expres
In at ane windo preis till haue entres,
Bot suddanelie Tullius come with ane buik

And straik him doū quhill all his chaktis quoik.

¶Fast climmand vp thay lustie wallis of stone
I saw Jugurtha and tressonabill Tryphone,
Bot thay na grippis thair micht hald for slidder.
Preissand to clim stude thousandis mony one
And to the ground thay fallin euerie one.
Than on the wall ane Garitour I considder
Proclamand loud that did thair hartis swidder
Dut on fallheid the Mother of euerie vice
Away Inuy and birnand couetice.

That Garitour tho, my Nimphe vnto me tald
Was cleipit Lawtie, keipar of that Hald
Of hie Honour, and thay pepill outschet,
Swa preissand thame to clim quhylum war bald
Richt verteous, zoung, bot fra time yai wor ald
Fra Honour haill on vice thair minde is set,
Now sall thow go (quod scho) straicht to the zet
Of this Palice, and enter but offence,
For the Portar is cleipit Patience.

¶The michtie Prince, the greitest Empreour
Of zone Palice (quod scho) hecht hie Honour
Quhome to dois serue mony traist Officair
For Cheritie of gudlines the flour
Is Maister houshald in zone Cristall Towr.
Firme Constance is the Kingis Secretair
And Liberalitie hecht his Thesaurair,
Innocence and Deuotioun as effeiris
Bene Clerkis of Closet and Cubiculairis.

¶His

¶This Comptrollar is cleipit Discretioun,
Humanitie and trew Relatioun
Bene Ischaris of his Chalmer mozne and ewin
Peice, quiet rest, oft walkis vp and doun
Intill his Hall, as Marschellis of Renoun.
Temperance is Cuik, his meit to taist and preit
Humilitie Carwer, that na wicht list to greit,
His Maister Sewar hecht Aerteous discipline
Mercie is Copper, and mixis weill his wine.

¶This Chancelair is cleipit Conscience
Quhilk foz na meid will pzonounce fals sentence
With him ar Assessouris four of ane assent,
Science, Prudence, Justice, Sapience
Quhilks to na wicht listin commit offence,
The Chekker Rollis and the Kingis rent
As Auditouris, thay ouirse quhat is spent,
Laubozous diligence, Gude warkis, Clene leuing
Bene Dutstewartis, and Catouris to zone King.

Gude hope remanis euer amang zone sozt
Ane fine Menstraill, with mony mow and spozt,
And Pietie is the Kingis Almoseir,
Sine Fozttitude the richt quha list repozt
Is Lieutenand all wzetchis to comfozt
The Kingis Minzeoun roundand in his Eir
Hecht Aerite, did neuer leill man deir,
And schozthie euerie vertew and Plesance
Is subiect to zone Kingis obeysance.

¶Cum on (said scho) this ozdinance to vesite.
Than past we to that Cristall Palice quhite

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Quhair I abaid the entrie to behold
I bad na mair of plesance nor delite
Of lustie sicht, of Joy and blis perfite
Nor mair weilfair to haue abone the mold
Than for to se that zet of birneist gold,
Quhairon thair was maist curiouslie Ingraue
All naturall thingis men may in eird consaue.

¶Thair was the eirth enuironit with the sey,
Quhairon the schippis sailland micht I se,
The Air, the Fire, all the four Elementis,
The Spheiris seuin, and Primum mobile
The Signes twelf perfitelie euerie gre,
The Zodiak haill, as buikis representis,
The Pole Antartick, that euer him self absentis,
The Pole Artick, and eik the Vrsis twane,
The seuin Starnis, Phaton and the Charlewane.

¶Thair was Ingraue how that Ganamedes
Was reft till heuin, as men in Ouide reidis,
And vnto Iuppiter maid his cheif Butlair.
The douchteris fair into thair lustie weidis
Of Driada, amid the sey but dreidis,
Swymmand, and part war figurit thair
Upon ane Craig dryand thair zallow hair.
With faris not vnlike, for quha thame seing
Micht weill considder that thay all sisters being.

¶Of Planeitis all the coniunctiounis
Thair Epistillis and oppositiounis
War portrait thair, & how thair coursis swagis
Thair naturall, and daylie motiounis,

Eclipsis,

Eclipsis, aspectis and digressiounis.
Thair saw I, and mony gudlie personages
Quhilks semit all lustie quick Images,
The warkmanschip exceding mony fold
The precious mater thocht it was fynest gold.

¶ Wonderand heiron agane my will but let
My Nimphe in greif schot me in at the zet,
Quhat deuill (said scho) hes thow nocht ellis ado
Bot all thy wit and fantasie to set
On sic doting, and tho for feir I swet.
Of hir langage, bot than anone (said scho)
List thow se farleis, behald thame zonder lo
Zit studie nocht ouir mekill a dreid thow varie,
For I persaue the halflingis in ane Farie.

¶ Within that Palice sone I gat ane sicht
Quhair walkand went full mony worthie wicht
Amid the clois, with all mirthis to waill,
For like Phebus with fyrie bemis bricht
The wallis schane, rastand sa greit ane licht
It semit like the heuin Imperiall,
And as the Ceder surmountis the Rammall
In persite hicht, sa of that Court a glance
Exceidis far all eirdlie vane plesance.

¶ For lois of sicht considder micht I nocht
How persitelie the riche wallis war wrocht
Swa the reflex of Christall stanis schone
For brichtnes scarslie blenk thairon I mocht.
The purifyit siluer surelie as me thocht
In steid of Symont was ouir all that wone,

Zit round about full mony ane Beriall stone,
And thame coniunctlie Jonit fast and quemit
The Cloys was pachit with siluer as it semit.

¶The durris and the windois all war breddit
With massie gold, quhairof the fynes scheddit
With birneist Euir baith Palace and Towris
War theikit weill, maist craftelie that cled it,
For sa the quhitlie blanschit bone ouir spred it
Vidlit with gold anamalit all colouris
Imposturait of birdis and sweit flouris,
Curious knottis, and mony hie deuise
Quhilks to behald war perfite Paradise.

¶And to proceid my Nimphe and I furth went
Straicht to the Hall throwout the Palice gent,
And ten stages of Topas did ascend
Schute was the dure, in at a boir I blent
Quhair I beheld the glaidest representent,
That euer in eirth I wretchit Catiue kend
Breistie this proces to conclude and end
Ye thocht the flure was all of Amatist,
Bot quhairof war the wallis I not wist.

¶The multitude of precious stanis seir
Thairon sa schane my febill sicht but weir,
Wicht not behald thair verteous gudlines
For all the Ruif as did to me appeir
Hang full of pleland lowpit Sapheiris cleir
Of Dyamontis and Rubeis as I ges
War all the buirdis maid of maist riches,
Of Sardanis of Jasp and Smaragdane

Traistis,

Traillis, Formis, and benkis war poleist plane.

¶ Baith to and fro amid the Hall thay went
Royall Princes in plait and Armouris quent
Of birneist gold couchit with precious stanis,
Enthronit sat ane God Omnipotent
On quhais glorious visage as I blent
In extasie be his brichtnes atanis
He smote me doun, and brissit all my banis,
Thair lay I still in swoun with colour blancht
Quhill at the last my Nimphe vp hes me caucht.

¶ Sine w̃ greit pane, with womenting & cair
In hir armis scho bair me doun the stair
And in the Clois full softlie laid me doun,
Vpheld my heid to tak the hailsum air
For of my life scho stude in greit despair:
Ye till awalk ay was that Lady boun
Quhill finallie out of that deidlie swoun
I swyith ouircome, and vp mine Ene did cast
Be merie man (quod scho) the worst is past.

¶ Get vp (scho said) for schame be na Cowart,
Vy heid in wed thow hes ane wykes hart,
That for a pleiand sicht was sa mismaid
Than all in anger vpon my feit I start
And for hir wordis war sa apirsmart
Unto the Nimphe I maid a busteous braid.
Carling (quod I) quhat was zone that thow saide?
Soft zow (said scho) thay ar not wise that stryfis
For kirkmen war ay gentill to thair wyfis.

¶I am richt glaid thow art worthin sa wicht
Lang eir me thocht ye had nouther force nor micht
Curage nor will for till haue greuit ane Fla,
Quhat aillit the to fall (quod I) the sicht
Of zone Goddes grim fyrie visage bricht
Quirset my wit, and all my spreitis swa
I micht not stand, bot was that suith, za, za.
Than said the Nimphe richt merilie and leuch
Now I considder thy mad hart weill aneuch.

¶I will na mair (quod scho) the thus assay
With sic plesance quhilk may thy spreit affray,
Zit sall thow se surelie sen thow art heir
My Ladyis Court in thair gudlie array.
For to behald thair mirth cum on thy way
Than hand in hand swyth went we furth in feir
At a Posterne towart the fair Herbeir
In that passage full fast at hir I franit
Quhat folk thay war within that Hall remanit.

¶Yone war (said scho) quha sa the richt discriues
Maist vailzeand folk, and verteous in thair liues
Now in the Court of Honour thay remane
Verteouslie, and in all plesance thriues.
For thay with speir, with swords and knifes
In Just battell war fundin maist of mane
In thair promittis thay stude euer firme & plane
In thame aboundit worschip and lawtie
Illuminat with liberalitie.

¶Honour (quod scho) to this heuinlie King
Differris richt far fra warldlie gouerning,

Quhilk

Quhilk is but Pompe of eirdlie dignitie
Geuin for estait of blude, micht or sic thing,
And in this countrie Prince, Prelate or King
Allanerlie sall, for vertew honourit be,
For eirdlie gloir is nocht bot vanitie
That as we se sa suddanelie will wend
Bot verteous Honour neuer mair sall end.

¶ Behald (said scho) and se this warldis glorie
Maist Inconstant, maist slid and transitorie
Prosperitie in eird is bot a dreme
Or like as man war steppand ouir ane scoir,
Now is he law, that was sa hie befoir,
And he quhylum was borne pure of his deme
Now his estait schynis like the Sone beme
Baith vp and doun, baith to and fra we se
This warld walteris as dois the wallie sey.

¶ To Papis, Bischoppis, Prelatis & Primaitis
Empreouris, Kingis, Princes, Potestatis,
Deith settis the terme, and end of all thair hicht
Fra thay be gane, let se quha on thame waitis.
Nathing remanis, bot fame of thair Estaitis,
And nocht ellis bot verteous warkis richt,
Sall with thame wend nouther thair Pompe nor micht
Ay vertew ringis in lestand Honour cleir,
Remember than that vertew hes na peir.

¶ For vertew is a thing sa precious
Quhairof the end is sa delicious,
The warld can not considder quhat it is,
It makis folk perfite and glorious,

It makis Sanctis of pepill vitious.
It cauſis folk ay liue in leſtand blis.
It is the way to hie Honour I wis,
It dantis deith, and euerie vice throw micht
Without vertew, fy on all eirdlie wicht.

¶Vertew is eik the perfite ſicker way,
And nocht ellis till leſtand honour ay,
For mony hes ſene vitious pepill vphieit,
And efter ſone thair gloze vaniſche away
Quhairof exampillis we ſe this euerie day.
His eirdlie pompe is gone quhen that he deit
Than is he with na eirdlie freind ſuppleit
Saiſand vertew, weillis him hes ſic a feir.
Now wil I ſchaw (quod ſcho) quhat folk bene heir.

¶The ſtrangeſt Sampſoun is into zone hald,
The fozcie puiſſant Hercules ſa bald,
The feirs Achill, and all the Nobillis nyne,
Scipio Affricane, Pompeius the ald.
Other mony quhais Namis befoir ar tald
With thouſandis ma than I may heir defyne.
And luſtie Ladyis amid thay Lozdis ſyne,
Semiramis, Thamar, Hippolita,
Pentheſilea, Medea, Zenobia.

¶Of thy Regioun zonder bene honourit part,
The Kingis Gregour, Kēneth, and King Robart
With vther ma that beis not heir reheirſit,
Maryit (quod ſcho) ay be thy megir hart.
Thow ſuld haue ſene had thow biddin in zone art
Quhat wiſe zone heuinlie companie conuerſit

Wa

Wa wozth thy kebill bzane sa sone was persit
Thow micht haue sene remanand quhair thow was
Ane hudge pepill puneist koz thair trespas.

¶Quhilks be wilfull manifest Arrogance
Inuyous pride pretendit Ignorance,
Foull dowbilnes and dissait vnamendit
Enkozris thame thair selfis to auance
Be sle fallheid, but lawtie oz constance
With subtelnes and slichtis now commendit
Betraisand folk that neuer to thame offendit,
And vpheis thame self thzow fraudeful lipps
Thocht God caus oft thair eirdlie gloir eclipps.

¶And Nobillis cũmin of honozabill Ancestry,
Thair verteous Nobilitie settis nocht by
For dishonest vnlefull warldlie wayis,
And thzow cozruptit couetous Inuy
Bot he that can be dowbill, nane is set by.
Dissait is Wisdome, Lawtie, Honour away is.
Richt few oz nane takis tent thairto thir dayis,
And thair greit wzangis to rekozme but let
In Judgement zone God was zonder set.

¶Remanand zonder thow micht haue hard beliue
Pzonouncit the greit sentence diffinitiue,
Tuitchand this Actioun, and the dzeidfull pane
Execute on trespassouris zit on liue:
Swa that thair malice sall na mair prescriue.
Madame (qu od I) koz Goddis saik turne agane,
My spzeit desyzis to se thair tozment sane.
(Quod scho) richt now thair sall thow be reioisit

Quhen thow hes tane the Air and better appoisit.

¶ Bot first thow sall considder commoditeis
Of our garding, so full of lustie treis,
All hie Cypres of flewer maist fragrant
Our Ladyis zonder bissie as the beis,
The sweit flureist flouris of Rethoreis,
Gadderis full fast mony grene tender plant,
And with all plesance pleneist is zone hant.
Quhair precious stanis on treis dois abound
In steid of frute chargeit with peirlis round.

¶ Unto that gudelie garth thus we proceid,
Quhilk with a large Fowsie far on breid
Inueronit was, quhair Fisches war anew,
All water Foullis war swemand thair gude speid
Als out of growand treis thair saw I breid
Foullis that hingand be thair nebbis grew
Out ouir the stank, of mony diuers hew
Was laid ane tre, ouir quhilk behouit vs pas,
Bot I can not declair quhairof it was.

¶ My Nimphe went ouir, chargead me follow fast
Hir till obey my spreitis wox agast,
Sa perrellous was the passage till espy
Away scho went, and fra time scho was past
Upon the Brig I enterit at the last
Bot sa my harnis trimblit bessly,
Quhill I fell ouir, and baith my feit slaid by
Out ouir the heid, into the stank adoun
Quhair as me thocht I was in point to droun.

¶ Quhat

¶ Quhat throw the birdis sang and this affray
Out of my swoun I walknit quhair I lay
In the Garding quhair I first doun fell
About I blent, for richt cleir was the day
Bot all this lustie plesance was away.
Ye thocht that fair Herbrie maist like to Hell
In till compair of this ze hard me tell,
Allace, allace, I thocht me than in pane
And langit sair for to haue swemit agane.

¶ The birdis sang nor zit the merie flouris
Wicht not ameis my greuous greit dolouris,
All eirdlie thing me thocht barrane and vile.
Thus I remanit into the Garth twa houris
Cursand the feildis, with all the fair coluris.
That I awolk oft wariand the quhile
Alwayis my minde was on the lustie Ile,
I purpoisit euer till haue dwelt in that art
Of Rethorik cullouris till haue found sum part.

¶ And maist of all my curage was aggreuit,
Becaus sa sone I of my dreme escheuit,
Not seand how thay wretchis war torment
That Honour mankit and honestie mischeuit.
Glaidlie I wald amid this writ haue breuit.
Had I it sene, how thay war slane or schent,
Bot fra I saw all this weilfair was went
Till mak ane end, sittand vnder a tre
In laude of Honour I wrait thir versis thre.

¶ O hie Honour, sweit heuinlie flour degest
Gem verteous, maist precious, gudliest,

For hie Honour thow art guerdoun conding.
Of worschip kend, the glorious end and rest:
But quhome in richt, na worthie wicht may lest
Thy greit puissance may maist auance all thing
And pouerall to mekill auaill sone bring.
I the require, sen thow but peir art best
That efter this in thy hie blis we ring.

¶Of grace, thy face, in euerie place, sa schynis
That sweit, all spreit, baith heid & feit Inclynis
Thy gloir, aforir, for till Imploir, remeid.
He dorcht, richt nocht, quhilk out of thocht, the tynis
Thy name, but blame, & royal fame diuine is
Thow port, at schort, of our comfort, and reid,
Till bring all thing, till glaiding efter deid.
All wicht but licht, of thy greit micht, ay crynis
O Schene, I mene, nane may sustene, thy feid.

Hail rois, maist chois, til clois thy fois, greit micht
Haill stone, quhilk schone, vpon the throne of licht
Vertew, quhais trew, sweit dew, ouirthrew, al vice
Was ay, Ilk day, gar fay, the way of licht.
Amend, offend, and send, our end, ay richt,
Thow stant, ordant, as sanct, of grant, maist wise
Till be, supplie, and the, hie gre, of price,
Delite, the tite, me quite, of site, to dicht,
For I apply, schortlie, to thy deuise.

The Author directis his buik

to the richt Nobill and Illuster Prince Iames
the Feird King of Scottis.

TRIVM-

TRIVMPHOVS laud with palme of victorie
The Lawrer Crowne of Infinite glorie
Maist gracious Prince, our souerane James the Feird
Thy Maiestie mot haue Eternallie
Supreme Honour, Renoun of Cheualrie.
Felicitie perdurand in this eird,
With Eterne blis, in heuin by fatall weird
Ressaue this Roustie rurall Rebaldrie
Laikand Cunning, fra thy pure leige vnleird.

¶ Quhilk in the sicht of thy Magnificence
Confidand in sa greit beneuolence
Proponis thus my vulgair Ignorance
Maist humbillie with dew obedience,
Beseikand ock thy michtie Excellence
Be grace to pardoun all sic variance
With sum bening respect of firme constance
Remittand my pretendit negligence
Thow quhais micht may humbill thing auãce.

¶ Breik, buriall quair, of Eloquence all quite,
With russet weid, and sentence Imperfite
Till cum in plane, se that thow not pretend the,
Thy barrant termis, and thy vile Indite
Sall not be mine, I will not haue the wite,
For as for me I quit clame that I kend the
Thow art bot stouth, thift louis licht but lite
Not worth ane mite. pray Ilk man til amend the
Fair on with site, and on this wise I end the.

FINIS.

VERITAS VINCET TANDEM
VER BVM DEI

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